

October 20, 2026

Crystal.Henwood@novascotia.ca

Ms. Crystal Henwood
Clerk of the Board
Nova Scotia Energy Board
1601 Lower Water Street, 3rd Floor
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3P6

Dear Ms. Henwood:

RE: M12914 NSP Maritime Link Inc. (NSPML) 2027/2028 Assessment – Submissions

NSPML's Application in this Matter requests the Nova Scotia Energy Board (Board, NSEB) to issue an Order under s. 64 of the *Public Utilities Act* and s. 8 of the *ML Regulations*:

- a) approving a 2027 assessment of \$200.3 million and a 2028 assessment of \$191.5 million. These are payable monthly by NS Power on the first of each month, except the FLG2 obligation, which is payable in May and November; and
- b) approving the proposed process for including the Contracted Marine Survey cost in the 2027 assessment, subject to review in NSPML's next assessment application.

NSPML filed its Application on June 25, 2026 and answered Information Requests (IRs) from the Board and intervenors on August 20, 2026. No evidence was submitted following the IR filing. No member of the public filed a letter of comment, and no party requested an oral hearing.

The assessments requested for 2027 and 2028 are consistent with past assessment amounts. The 2027 assessment is about 1.4 percent above the 2026 assessment of \$197.5 million, mainly because of certain O&M items, like the Marine Survey project and inflation. These are partly offset by lower debt and equity financing costs. The 2028 assessment is about 4.4 percent below 2027, driven by various O&M costs such as the Marine Survey costs not recurring in 2028, and lower debt and equity financing costs. The Application incorporates the Board's cost of capital parameters of return on equity of 8.75 percent and a 70/30 debt-to-equity ratio.

As committed to in the Application, the Board has conducted this matter through a paper hearing. NSPML confirms it will proactively refund its \$154,000 regulatory budget for this proceeding, less

October 20, 2026

the fees¹ set out in the Application.

NSPML also confirms its other commitments in the Application, including filing an updated depreciation study within six months of completing the Cable Protection Project, and filing a separate capital application for the SCM upgrade.

The Cable Protection Project is now complete, and the Company is preparing the final costing application with a goal to file before the end of the year. Although NSPML continues to gather information to support the associated final costing submission, it confirms that actual costs will be below the Project's approved amount. Subject to Board approval, NSPML will incorporate the impact of those capital savings into the final 2027 and 2028 assessment (depreciation) amounts, and filing information with the Board to support such adjustments. Given the asset depreciates over ~30 years, the associated reduction is not expected to be overly material.

In terms of the pending 2027 Marine Survey, on October 7, 2026, proposals were received for the work and the detailed assessment is underway. The Company is on track to award the work to the most appropriate supplier and to provide the Board and participants with final forecasted costing by the end of the year, or shortly after.

NSPML appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission, all of which is respectfully submitted.

Regards,



Shellie Woolham
Director, Regulatory Affairs and Governance

cc: Norm Dimmell, President, NSPML
David Landrigan, General Counsel & VP Business Development, NSPML
William Mahody, K.C., Board Counsel
Interested Parties

¹ As explained in the Application, Section 6.0, lines 10-18 "During this discussion with customer representatives, NSPML indicated that a paper process is significantly less onerous on corporate resources (including the requirement for external legal counsel to assist with preparing for and participation in an oral hearing) and, that if the Board was comfortable with a paper process NSPML agrees to proactively refund its \$154,000 regulatory budget amount forecasted for the 2027/2028 Assessment process less any fees billed by the Energy Board (limited to expert evidence and Board Counsel), the Consumer Advocate, the Small Business Advocate and any NSPML expert costs required to respond to interrogatories or other filed expert evidence."