

2026 10-Year System Outlook Report
(Nova Scotia Energy Board M12916)

Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator (IESO Nova Scotia)
Responses to Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI) Information Requests

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Request IR – 1

- a) How will the results of the current Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that is underway be reflected in, or incorporated into, future 10-Year System Outlook (10YSO) Reports?
- b) Where differences arise between the conclusions of the IRP and those presented in 10YSO Reports, which document will be considered the primary planning basis for resource procurement decisions and projects (e.g. conversion projects)? Which planning document will serve as the principal basis for demonstrating the need for, and the timing of, proposed investments?

Response IR - 1

- a) In future years, the preferred resource plan selected in the 2026 IRP will be the central planning scenario used for subsequent 10-Year System Outlook reports.
- b) The IRP is a robust, stakeholder engaged planning process and as such the results of the IRP form the central planning scenario and serve as the planning process to demonstrate the need for, and timing of, proposed investments. The 10-Year System Outlook provides an annual check point to see if any recent changes in assumptions such as unit availability, project implementation timelines, or load, impact IESO Nova Scotia's ability to meet firm demand and maintain the target planning reserve margin necessary to ensure loss of load expectation is less than 1 day per 10 years. If a discrepancy was to exist between the two documents, the context and reasons for that discrepancy would need to be understood and would inform IESO Nova Scotia's recommended path forward.

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Request IR – 2

Reference: 2026 10-Year System Outlook Report, 3.3.2 Load and Resources Overview, Table 4:
IESO-NS 10-Year Load and Resource Outlook, page 18.

Table 4 identifies resources including fast-acting generation, firm imports from New Brunswick, and Battery Energy Storage Systems as necessary to meet firm capacity needs with the phase out of coal resources. Given that delays in the procurement of these resources could create capacity shortfalls that may not be fully mitigated by extending the operation of Lingan 2 and Trenton 5, please describe the IESO-NS' contingency plans and alternative measures should the procurement, development or in-service dates of these resources be delayed.

Response IR - 2

Any planned retirements are contingent on replacement capacity coming online. If one or more of the in-service dates for the identified projects is delayed the corresponding unit retirement will similarly need to be delayed until replacement capacity is online and reliable operation is established. The only scenario prior to 2029/2030 in which capacity shortfalls could not be fully mitigated by extending the operation of Lingan 2 and/or Trenton 5 would be if load growth significantly outpaced the load forecast. IESO Nova Scotia has not developed a specific contingency plan for such a scenario but notes that one of the reasons the 20% Planning Reserve Margin is maintained is to allow for unanticipated short-term variations in system peak demand. Please also see the response to NSEB IR-6.

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1 **Request IR – 3**

2 Please provide a list of all resource additions in the 10YSO that are being treated as fixed inputs
3 in the current IRP and a list of all resource additions that will be evaluated through the current
4 IRP process.

5 **Response IR - 3**

6 Details on the resource additions currently being treated as fixed inputs in the ongoing 2026 IRP
7 can be found in IRP Assumption Set 1, slide 59, and IRP Assumption Set 3, slide 40 located
8 publicly on IESO Nova Scotia's system planning website.¹

¹ [2026-IRP-Assumption-Set-1-Revised-May-28-2026.pdf](#)

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Request IR – 4

Reference: 2026 10-Year System Outlook Report, Appendix A: RES Compliance Forecast, page 28.

Appendix A forecasts PH Biomass as 250 GWh in 2030, compared to 198 GWh in both 2028 and 2029. NS Power notes that average PH Biomass generation over the past three years was approximately 163 GWh (ranging from 143 GWh to 184 GWh, including generation from both biomass and natural gas), with biomass fuel eligible for RES compliance averaging 142 GWh over the same period (ranging from 124 GWh to 171 GWh). Please provide the assumptions underlying this increase, including expected fuel usage, generation levels, and associated costs.

Response IR - 4

The forecast for PH Biomass shown in Appendix A of the 2026 10 Year System Outlook was derived from Nova Scotia Power Inc (NSPI's) 2023 Evergreen IRP results for scenario CE1-E1-R2 for PH Biomass Generation.¹

¹ [evergreen-irp-final-modeling-results-data-tables-2023.xlsx](#)

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Request IR – 5

Reference: 2026 10-Year System Outlook Report, 3.3.2 Load and Resources Overview, Table 4:
IESO-NS 10-Year Load and Resource Outlook, page 18.

The 10YSO identifies the Point Tupper 2 coal to gas conversion project as planned to be in-service for the winter of 2028/2029. Please describe the environmental regulatory assumptions underlying this resource addition and identify what level of certainty regarding Federal and Provincial Environmental Regulation will be required by the IESO-NS to ensure this project can provide sufficient available capacity to support firm load requirements while meeting necessary environmental requirements and should proceed.

Response IR - 5

The inclusion of the Point Tupper 2 coal to gas conversion reflects the economic selection of this resource in NS Power's 2023 Evergreen IRP and subsequent inclusion in multiple NS Power *The Path to 2030* reports filed with the NSEB. IESO Nova Scotia understands that equivalency with the [Regulations Limiting Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Natural Gas-fired Generation of Electricity](#) is necessary for this unit to operate as a gas unit. The requirement to meet all applicable Federal and Provincial Environmental Regulations is that of the generation owner.

In the case of Point Tupper, the significant difference in cost between converting Point Tupper from coal to gas compared to building incremental new fast-acting generation underpins the economic selection of the unit conversion. The historical record of obtaining equivalency for other generating units in Nova Scotia provides some confidence that an agreement can be reached, and lowers the risk profile of obtaining equivalency even though some uncertainty remains until an equivalency agreement is finalized. As such, IESO Nova Scotia is comfortable continuing to

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- 24 include the unit conversion in its ongoing planning process, as the optimal result for customers is
- 25 to allow sufficient time for equivalency discussions to progress and reach a conclusion.

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Request IR – 6

Reference: 2026 10-Year System Outlook Report, 3.2.2 Green Choice Program & Additional Energy Procurements, page 12.

In June 2025, two (2) wind farms entered into Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), totaling 262 MW – Eigg Mountain Wind Farm (150 MW) and Sugar Maple Wind Farm (112 MW). These two projects are expected to be in service by December 31, 2028. Following the results of this procurement, NS Power highlighted the need for an additional 350 MW of new wind generation capacity, capable of generating 1,000-1,200 GWh of renewable electricity annually, to meet the 2030 80% renewable energy standards.

The original Green Choice procurement Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on December 1, 2023, seeking 650MW of renewable electricity capacity. As noted above, of the 650MW, a total of 262MW of wind capacity has been procured and have signed Power Purchase Agreements (PPA's), which have a scheduled COD of December 31, 2028 (approximately 61 months between RFP issuance and in-service date). The second Green Choice procurement RFP, to procure an additional 350MW as noted above, was issued on September 10, 2026. The IESO-NS 10YSO assumes a commercial operation date for this wind generation of December 31, 2029 (approximately 40 months between RFP issuance and required in-service date). Given that the IESO-NS must comply with the renewable electricity targets set out in the regulations under section 23 of the *Electricity Act*, what are the IESO-NS' contingency plans if the COD of this wind extends beyond December 31, 2029?

Response IR - 6

In its first year of operation, IESO Nova Scotia has worked towards meeting the Province of Nova Scotia's 2030 decarbonization goals. This includes supporting the second Green Choice wind procurement, led by the NS Department of Energy, which launched in September 2026.

The 2026 10 Year System Outlook highlights the contribution of these new resources to meeting the 2030 renewable electricity targets set out in the Renewable Electricity Regulations. IESO

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29 Nova Scotia understands this linkage has been considered by the Department of Energy and
30 incorporated into the design of the procurement via the Early Completion Incentive, which IESO
31 Nova Scotia understands is intended to incent commercial operation dates prior to December 31,
32 2029.

33

34 This procurement process is ongoing and IESO Nova Scotia will continue to monitor progress and
35 timelines and incorporate those into future planning analyses.