

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: The Public Utilities Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.380, as amended
- and -

IN THE MATTER OF: IESO Nova Scotia 2026 10-Year System Outlook Report

NON-CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator (IESO-NS)
From: Nova Scotia Small Business Advocate
Responses Due: Friday, October 9, 2026
Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)
Contact Person: **Melissa P. MacAdam**
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Issued at Bedford, Nova Scotia on this 18th day of September 2026.

Request IR-01

Refer to Exhibit N-1, the 2026 10-Year System Outlook (the “2026 Report”) Section 2 – Load Forecast, page 6, Table 1: Forecast System Peak and Net System Requirement. The 2026 Report shows the IESO-NS NSR increasing from 11,838 GWh (2026F) to 13,224 GWh (2036F), an average annual increase of 1.1%. The 2025 10-Year System Outlook showed the Net System Requirement (NSR) declining from 11,607 GWh (2025F) to 11,365 GWh (2035F), which is an average annual decrease of 0.2%.¹

- a. Please provide a comparison of the 2026 Load Forecast to the 2025 Load Forecast for both energy (NSR) and system peak demand.
- b. Please identify the key drivers responsible for the change from a declining energy forecast to a growing energy forecast, and quantify each driver’s contribution.
- c. Please identify any needed changes in the resource buildout to accommodate the increase in load in the 2026 Report compared to the 2025 Report.

Request IR-02

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 2 – Load Forecast, page 6, Table 1: Forecast System Peak and Net System Requirement.

- a. Please explain the drivers between the increase in Renewable-to-Retail (RtR) Energy from 15 GWh in 2026 to 239 GWh in 2027 and then 286 GWh in 2028, respectively.
- b. Please explain why RtR sales are assumed to remain flat at 286 GWh from 2028 through 2036.
- c. In Table 3: Additions and Retirements in the 10-Year System Outlook Resource Plan (p. 15), the resource expansion shows incremental Renewable to Retail additions of 36 MW in 2026/27, 54 MW in 2027/28, and 59 MW in 2029/30. These additions do not correlate with the timing or magnitude of the increases in energy production discussed in part (a) of this information request. Please reconcile these differences.

Request IR-03

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 2 – Load Forecast, page 6, Table 1: Forecast System Peak and Net System Requirement. Please explain the source for the assumed growth in behind-the-meter solar penetration.

Request IR-04

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, pages 7-8.

- a. Please provide a comparison table showing the ELCC values from the 2025 Report and the 2026 Report. Provide the average and incremental ELCC values for all penetration levels available.
- b. The 2026 Report cites to the June 2026 E3 ELCC Study (page 8, footnote 6). E3 subsequently conducted additional ELCC analyses and presented the results to stakeholders in the IRP process on August 27, 2026 (see <https://www.ieso-ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-Nova-Scotia-ELCC-Study-Follow-up-Wind-Storage-ELCC-Results.pdf>). Does the 2026 Report rely on the June 2026 ELCC study, the August

¹ M12386 – Exhibit N-1 - NS Power 2025 10-Year System Outlook Report (the “2025 Report”), pp. 9-10 of 64.

2026 supplemental analysis, or a combination of both? Please clarify the resource used for each ELCC study in the 2026 Report.

- c. Please describe how the interactive effects of combined wind, solar, and battery energy storage resources, as calculated by E3 in its latest study, have been incorporated into the resource plan in the 2026 Report.

Request IR-05

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, pages 8-9, Table 2: 2026 Nova Scotia Generation Resources.

- a. Table 2 does not show an ELCC value for thermal resources, but does reflect firm capacity that is equivalent to installed capacity for each. Please confirm that IESO NS has assumed an ELCC of 100% for each of these thermal resources, and explain the reasoning for that assumption.
- b. Table 2 assigns a uniform ELCC of 20% to all wind resources and 12% to all solar resources. Please confirm whether IESO has applied an average ELCC to all existing resources rather than marginal ELCC, and explain the reasoning for that assumption.
- c. Please describe how the uniform 20% wind ELCC in Table 2 reconciles with the statement on Page 8 that the wind ELCC “declines to 5% at higher amounts of installed wind capacity.”

Request IR-06

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, page 8, Table 2: 2026 Nova Scotia Generation Resources.

- a. Please describe the methodology used to determine the ELCC value of hydro resources.
- b. Please explain why Mersey System hydro is assigned an ELCC of 82% while all other NS Power-owned hydro facilities are assigned a 95%.
- c. Please describe how the Mersey ELCC was calculated. Was it calculated as part of the June 2026 E3 ELCC Study, or separately?
- d. Please explain the source of the assumption that demand response resources have an ELCC of 67%.

Request IR-07

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, page 9, footnote 9. Please describe how much of the installed capacity in Table 2 is attributable to the Community Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) program and provide a list of the FIT projects included.

Request IR-08

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, page 15, Table 3: Additions and Retirements in the 10-Year System Outlook Resource Plan. There are multiple winters – specifically 2027/2028-2028/2029 and 2030/2031-2035/2036 – where there is the addition or inclusion of a “Diversity Credit” which contributes additional firm capacity even in years without battery storage additions.

- a. Please describe the methodology used to calculate the Diversity Credit firm capacity values for this table.

- b. Please explain why there are Diversity Credit values in years without incremental battery storage resources.
- c. Please describe whether the Diversity Credit in each year of Table 3 reflects only the interaction of new resources added in that year, or reflects the interaction of new resources with existing resources on the system.
- d. Please describe the sensitivity of the Diversity Credit values in Table 3 to changes in the timing or magnitude of BESS, wind, and solar additions, as well as other resource additions that may have an effect on the Diversity Credit values.

Request IR-09

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3.2.7 Firm Imports – New Brunswick, page 14, where IESO NS states that it has contracted 100 MW of firm generation capacity from NB Power under a 10-year agreement, with delivery beginning “as early as 2028.”

- a. Please describe the basis for the delivery timing assumption of Winter 2028/2029 and any preconditions that must be met before delivery begins.
- b. If the 100 MW firm import does not materialize by Winter 2028/2029, please describe IESO NS’s alternative plan to maintain resource adequacy.

Request IR-10

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, page 15, Table 3: Additions and Retirements in the 10-Year System Outlook Resource Plan, and the Demand Response additions. The Demand Response ELCC values vary widely across the horizon, ranging from roughly 16% (24 MW installed / 3.8 firm in Winter 2026/2027) to 48% (6 MW installed / 2.9 MW firm in Winter 2028/2029). These values vary significantly from the 67% ELCC value attributed to Demand Response in Table 2.

- a. Please explain the difference between the Demand Response ELCC value of 67% as listed in Table 2, which summarizes the 2026 capacity of Nova Scotia’s Generation Resources, and the Demand Response ELCC value of roughly 16% for Winter 2026/2027 in Table 3.
- b. Please explain the drivers behind the variation in the implied Demand Response ELCC values in Table 3.
- c. Please confirm whether the Demand Response ELCC values in Table 3 represent marginal ELCC or average ELCC.

Request IR-11

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3.2.3 – NS Community Solar, page 13, which states that “The forecast commercial operation date for the first three projects approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Energy is Q3 2027.”

- a. Please provide the current development status of each of the three Community Solar projects referenced in footnotes 19-21 of the 2026 Report (Annapolis County, Sydney, and Rural HRM).
- b. Please describe the risk, if any, that the Q3 2027 commercial operation date will not be met for each project, and any implications for resource adequacy if any or all of the Community Solar projects are delayed.

Request IR-12

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, page 15, Table 3: Additions and Retirements in the 10-Year System Outlook Resource Plan, and the 2025 Report Section 3.2, Figure 7: Additions and Retirements as in the 10-Year System Outlook Resource Plan².

- a. Please provide a reconciliation of the additions and retirements presented in Table 3 of the 2026 Report against the additions and retirements presented in Figure 7 of the 2025 Report, including any changes in resource type, capacity, timing, or categorization.
- b. Please describe the drivers of the differences between the two resource plans.
- c. Please describe any additions or retirements included in the 2025 Report that are not carried forward into the 2026 Report, and identify the current status of each.

Request IR-13

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, page 15, Table 3: Additions and Retirements in the 10-Year System Outlook Resource Plan, and the implied marginal wind ELCC values reflected within the table, which range from roughly 5% to 20%.

- a. Please provide the full marginal wind ELCC schedule by year over the 10-year horizon.
- b. Please confirm that the marginal wind ELCC values implied in the table are consistent with the results of the June 2026 E3 ELCC study, and identify any variations between the two.
- c. Please describe the installed wind capacity threshold at which the marginal wind ELCC transitions from 20% to lower ELCC values as shown in the table and described on page 8 of 28, where IESO NS describes that the “ELCC of existing wind on the system is 20% but declines to 5% at higher amounts of installed wind capacity.”

Request IR-14

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3.3.1 – Planning Reserve Criteria, page 16, which states that “NS Power studied the appropriate calculation of the PRM in Nova Scotia as part of the 2020 IRP, which confirmed that a 20% PRM target was appropriate for long-term planning. IESO Nova Scotia continues to use the 20% PRM target.”

- a. Please describe whether IESO NS intends to conduct or commission an updated study of the appropriate PRM for Nova Scotia.
- b. Please confirm whether the IESO NS or NS Power is responsible for restudying the PRM, and the anticipated timeline for that restudy.

Request IR-15

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 3 – Existing Generation Resources, page 18, Table 4: IESO-NS 10-Year Load and Resource Outlook, and the BESS additions.

- a. Please confirm whether IESO NS has assumed any degradation of BESS capacity over time.
- b. If degradation is assumed, please provide the assumed degradation curve and IESO NS’s source for that assumption. If no degradation is assumed, why not?

² M12386 – Exhibit N-1 - NS Power 2025 Report, Page 17 of 64, Figure 7: Additions and Retirements as in the 10-Year System Outlook Resource Plan.

Request IR-16

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 4.3 – Clean Electricity Regulations (CER), page 21. Specifically considering the treatment of new fast-acting generation under the CER:

- a. Please describe IESO NS’s current assessment of whether the 450 MW of new fast-acting generation described in Section 3.2.4 is likely to qualify as a “Planned Resource” under the CER.
- b. Please provide any updated analysis on whether new fast-acting generation would be subject to the CER’s emissions performance standards.
- c. Please describe any implications for IESO NS’s resource plans if the new fast-acting generation is not eligible for treatment as a Planned Resource under the CER.

Request IR-17

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 5 – Transmission Planning, Sub-section 5.1.1 Interconnection Requirements, page 22, mentioning various studies.

- a. Refer to where it states, in reference to inverter-based resources (IBRs), that “ongoing system study indicates newer and better tuned IBRs can ride through grid events and meet performance criteria with reduced levels of grid support mechanisms such as synchronous condensers.” Please identify the specific study or studies referenced, and whether the study is specific to Nova Scotia or is a general industry study. Please provide copies of the study/studies, if available.
- b. Refer to where it states “Grid-forming BESS is also showing potential specifically to reduce the requirement for synchronous support.” Please identify the specific study or studies referenced, and whether the study is specific to Nova Scotia or is a general industry study. Please provide copies of the study/studies, if available.
- c. Refer to where it states “Ongoing study will refine requirements for the interconnection of IBR to set more stringent performance requirements to allow for lower levels of synchronous support required online in the next generation of IBR facilities.” Please identify the specific study or studies referenced, and whether the study is specific to Nova Scotia or is a general industry study. Additionally, please describe the anticipated timeline for completion for this study. Please provide copies of the study/studies, if available.

Request IR-18

Refer to the 2026 Report Section 5.2.1 Generator and BESS Interconnection, page 23, which states “there are twenty (20) Interconnection Requests associated with eighteen (18) projects currently anticipated to connect to the Nova Scotia transmission system prior to 2030”. Please provide the full list of the 20 Interconnection Requests and 18 associated projects, including project name, generation type, installed capacity, and expected in-service date.

Request IR-19

Refer to the 2026 Report 5.2.2 Large Load Interconnection Requests, page 23, referring to Table 8: Large-Load SIS.

- a. For each of the nine projects listed in Table 8, please provide the expected in-service date, ramp schedule for load growth, load factor, and any interruptible or curtailment provisions.
- b. Are these loads included in the load forecast? Why or why not?

- 1 c. If these loads materialize as forecasted, how would they impact IESO NS's resource
2 adequacy assessment? Please describe any additional firm capacity that would be required
3 and the year in which that capacity would need to be in service.
4

5 **Request IR-20**

6 Refer to the 2026 Report Section 5.4.3 Transmission Development Project List, pages 25-26,
7 referencing the Transmission Development Project List which includes "transmission system
8 development projects identified by IESO Nova Scotia."

- 9 a. Please describe whether the projects listed in Table 9: Transmission Project List 2026-2036
10 are based on studies recently conducted by IESO NS, carried over from prior NS Power
11 studies, or a combination of both. For each project, please identify the underlying study.
12 b. Please confirm whether IESO NS has independently validated the need for each project
13 listed in Table 9.
14 c. Please describe which entity is ultimately responsible for building each of the transmission
15 upgrades listed in Table 9.
16

17 **Request IR-21**

18 The 2026 Report does not discuss offshore wind (OSW) generation resources.

- 19 a. If Nova Scotia successfully achieves its goals of up to 5 GW of OSW in the 2026 call for
20 bids, and an additional 10 GW in future calls for bids, how will the 10-Year System
21 Outlook change?
22 b. Please describe how and when offshore wind resources will be reflected in future 10-Year
23 System Outlook Reports.
24

25 **Request IR-22**

26 The 2025 Report included several sections that do not appear in the 2026 Report, including but not
27 limited to various sections under "Generation Resources", "Resource Adequacy", "Transmission
28 Planning", "Transmission Development", and "Clean Energy Regulations".

- 29 a. For all of the sections not included, please describe why it was not included in the 2026
30 Report.
31 b. Please describe where stakeholders can find the equivalent information going forward,
32 including whether each topic is now the responsibility of NS Power or IESO NS.