

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF: AN APPLICATION by NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED
to approve CI C0053295 - L5004 Kearney Lake Structure
Replacement - \$6,836,784 (ATO)

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Lana Myatt**
Manager, Regulatory Capital
Nova Scotia Power Inc.
1223 Lower Water Street
P O Box 910
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3S8
By email: lane.myatt@nspower.ca

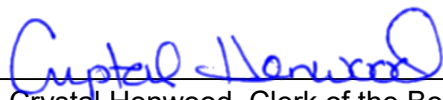
From: Board Staff
Nova Scotia Energy Board

Responses Due: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **Somesh Singh, P.Eng.**
Senior Advisor, Electrical
Nova Scotia Energy Board
3rd Floor, 1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3S3
Tel: 902 424 1332
Email: Somesh.Singh@novascotia.ca

Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 09th day of September 2026.



Crystal Henwood, Clerk of the Board

Request IR-1:

As the application noted, this project was approved as part of 2025 Annual Capital Expenditure (ACE) Plan with an estimated budget of \$2,478,537. This ATO application has increased the approved budget cost by \$4,358,247, bringing the total cost of the project to \$6,836,784. The project application noted that the L5004 is a 13.06-kilometer 69kV transmission line that was originally built in 1966 and this project includes the removal of nine existing wooden pole structures and replacing them with six new steel poles.

In response to NSEB IR-116(d), and noting that these IRs were issued as part of the original application for Matter M12012: the 2025 ACE Plan, the utility stated the following:

...The project will relocate the existing structure from Kearney Lake to the shoreline. Addressing any issues with structures located inside a body of water is expected to take a long time due to the need for permissions and access to replace the structure in the lake....

In response to NSEB IR-116(b), Matter M12012: 2025 ACE Plan, the utility provided a plan-view drawing in Attachment 2 showing the locations of both the existing and new structures. Board Staff's analysis of the drawing indicates that only one existing structure (L5004-047) will be relocated from Kearney Lake to the shoreline.

In response to NSEB IR-12(b), M11707: L6549 – Replacement and Upgrades Phase 2, the utility indicated that the estimated cost of a full 138 kV structure replacement ranges from \$34K to \$120K. However, Board Staff notes that the project in the application is a 69 kV transmission line, so the associated cost would generally be expected to be lower.

- a) Please confirm Board Staff's understanding that only one existing structure is being relocated from Kearney Lake to the shoreline. If this is incorrect, please provide a list of all structures being relocated to the shoreline, along with their original and new coordinate positions.
- b) Please list all required permissions and permits needed to replace the existing wooden structures, including their jurisdiction, expected timelines for obtaining them, and associated costs.
- c) How much delay was expected in getting the permissions and permits during the original submission of the project in ACE 2025.
- d) What environmental agency expectations apply to the removal of the existing frames?

Request IR-2:

- a) Please identify and provide any significant incremental information discovered during the supplemental geotechnical investigation detailed in Attachment 2 to the application, dated April 16, 2025. Specifically those that required structure designs that were much more costly than originally anticipated in the 2025 ACE Plan, which presumably incorporated the findings of the initial geotechnical investigation detailed in Attachment 1 to the application, dated November 20, 2020.
- b) Please explain why the proposed structural design changes could not have been identified solely from the geotechnical investigation dated November 20, 2020.
- c) Please explain what factors triggered the need for supplemental geotechnical investigation, and why are those activities not considered part of preliminary engineering?

Request IR-3:

On page 2, the application notes that "While NS Power did investigate an alternative transmission route to avoid a complex water crossing, this alternative was not viable, and the best option remained the installation of the steel poles with concrete foundation within NS Power's existing transmission line Right-of-Way easement."

- a) Please provide a cost estimate to replace a single 69-kV transmission line structure, including a breakdown by task and component.
- b) Given the significant cost increase has the utility considered doing like for like replacement of the existing wooden pole structure.
- c) Please provide the cost replacing the existing structure with like for replacement structures.
- d) Did NS Power consider using guyed structures, such as H-Frame or Three Pole, to achieve the desired single span crossing of the lake between proposed new structures #46 & #47, as shown on page 27 of 28 of Attachment 1 to the application?
 - i. If yes, what was the estimated cost of using guyed structures?
 - ii. If no, please explain why not, considering that guyed structures could have significantly reduced the foundation requirements for these crossing structures. Board staff understands that replacing all existing structures on a like-for-like basis using wood-pole H-frame structures may have reduced the environmental permitting requirements. Board staff also understand that the crossing structures may require guys fore and aft, and that this need could have been confirmed during detailed design Please provide engineering

1 documentation demonstrating that guyed structures would not have been
2 feasible for this project.

3 e) Please provide an all-in Net Present Value comparison of the operating and capital
4 carrying costs for the proposed rebuild using structures with 100-year expected service
5 lives versus a like-for-like rebuild using wood structures with typical expected service
6 lives. Please provide the analysis in an Excel sheet, including all formulas and underlying
7 assumptions.

8 f) Would achieving a 100-year useful life, as proposed in this application, require rebuilding
9 the entire line with similar structures?

10 i. If yes, please estimate the capital cost of the required rebuild.
11

12 **Request IR-4:**

13 Please provide the amounts spent to date, itemized by task.