

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 C0068718 – IT - DERMS Solution Project -
\$2,965,414

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Lana Myatt**
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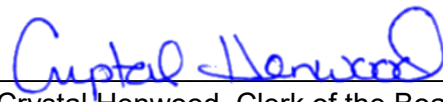
From: Board Staff
Nova Scotia Energy Board

Responses Due: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **Somesh Singh, P.Eng.**
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Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 22nd day of September 2026.



Crystal Henwood, Clerk of the Board

Request IR-1:

The application notes the following:

...Reduce manual operational DER management effort through process automation;
Improve operational awareness through centralized visibility and control of DERs;
Standardize management of a multi-vendor, multi-protocol, multi-integration, DER fleet;
Establish a framework and operational procedures to support future DER integration...

...NS Power's DCC operators currently have limited real-time visibility and control of DERs on the distribution system and the operational processes which enable DER dispatch are decentralized and manual...

The project includes the selection of a platform which will provide centralized visibility and allow for orchestration of DER dispatch through integration with NS Power's Operational Technology (OT), utility owned DERs, and aggregators.

...DERs, such as rooftop solar, battery storage systems, electric vehicles, smart thermostats, and other grid-edge or customer-sited technologies are increasingly becoming an active part of Nova Scotia's electricity grid. Currently, DCC operators have no visibility into the DERs in the distribution system and dispatch of available DERs is enabled by decentralized, manual processes.

...and helps ensure DERs can be integrated with the system as active, controllable resources rather than passive connections.

... creating localized impacts that cannot be identified by grid operators without a DERMS platform

...This project advances the DER orchestration strategy set out in the DERIR which is intended to allow for coordination of DER behaviour to help avoid grid constraints.

Board staff understand that any distributed energy resources (DERs) referenced in the utility's application would have been connected to the grid only after an interconnection agreement was carried out with the utility. For any material capacity, the associated interconnection costs are the responsibility of the interconnection customer. Board staff also understand that the utility should be aware of the feeder and substation to which any significant DERs are connected and should also submit its day-ahead power-production forecast, along with any other forecasts required by the Distribution Control Centre. Board staff further understand that some substations to which these DERs are connected may have RTUs capable of providing their online status if required, notwithstanding any additional programming that may be necessary.

a) Using the list of DERs referenced in the application such as rooftop solar, battery storage systems, electric vehicles and smart thermostats, and using a hypothetical example, please explain the current manual dispatch process and the future dispatch capability enabled by this technology installation.

b) Please also explain what the utility is trying to dispatch.

- 1 c) Please confirm whether this proposed project is intended solely for utility-owned DERs
2 and aggregators.
- 3 d) Please explain what an aggregator means in the context of DERs.
- 4 e) Please provide a list of all utility-owned DERs and aggregators associated with this project,
5 including each resource's capacity, type, location, and the substation to which it is
6 currently connected.
- 7 f) Please provide a list of the locations where this technology will be installed.
- 8 g) Using a hypothetical example, select a few different types of DERs referenced in item 1d)
9 above and explain how the proposed technology will ensure that these DERs can be
10 integrated into the system as active, controllable resources rather than passive
11 connections.
- 12 h) Please quantify the current cost associated with DERs as passive connections and the
13 corresponding benefit to ratepayers of integrating DERs as controllable resources.
- 14 i) Please explain how this technology will enable DER behaviour to help avoid grid
15 constraints using a specific example, and please quantify the corresponding benefit to
16 ratepayers associated with removing these constraints.

17

18 **Request IR-2:**

19 Please provide the Dunskey Distributed Energy Resource Integration Roadmap report noted in the
20 application.

21

22 **Request IR-3:**

23 What will be the yearly operating cost for this technology over the next five years?

24

25 **Request IR-4:**

26 The application notes the following:

27 ...The DERMS will be capable of monitoring and coordinating DER aggregations, communicating
28 with DER aggregators, and will be able to integrate DERs into NS Power's OT ecosystem through
29 interfaces with other NS Power enterprise systems such as ADMS.

30 Please explain whether any cybersecurity requirements apply to this integration and describe how
31 those requirements will be evaluated.

Request IR-5:

The application notes the following:

Increased customer adoption of DERs, increasing severity and frequency of weather events, and environmental policy mandates (e.g. 80 percent renewable energy) are all key considerations within Nova Scotia's current energy landscape. NS Power needs to establish operational management capabilities and processes which provide DER visibility and enable coordination, where appropriate.

Board staff understand that operational control centre functions will ultimately be transferred to the newly formed Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator.

a) Did the utility consult the Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator before submitting this project?

i. If yes, please provide a copy of the correspondence.

ii. If not, please explain why such consultation was not required.