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November 12, 2026

Crystal Henwood
Clerk of the Board
Nova Scotia Energy Board
crystal.henwood@novascotia.ca

RE: M13113 - Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator (IESO) - 2025/2026 Annual Report

Ms. Henwood,

I write regarding M13113 on the above-noted matter currently before the Nova Scotia Energy Board.

Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn (KMK) and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs (Assembly) are intervenors on a number of matters currently before the Nova Scotia Energy Board. Several of these matters are in relation to the Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operation (IESO). KMK remains concerned that, since its inception, IESO has not adequately demonstrated the nature, effectiveness, or results of its engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

KMK notes that throughout its 2025/2026 Annual Report, IESO repeatedly references engagement with Mi'kmaw communities and organizations and identifies building trust with Mi'kmaw communities as fundamental to its mandate. However, the report provides little meaningful information regarding the nature, scope, outcomes, or effectiveness of those engagement efforts.

While the report indicates that meetings and relationship-building activities have occurred, it does not describe:

- how Mi'kmaq perspectives informed decision-making,
- how Mi'kmaq concerns were responded to and addressed,
- what commitments were made and whether such commitments were fulfilled by IESO,
- how engagement outcomes influence planning and procurement activities, or
- how Mi'kmaw rights, interests, and perspectives were considered and accounted for in the development of major initiatives.

We recommend that future annual reports should include specific and detailed reporting on each of these measures, to track whether IESO is able to demonstrate progress toward reconciliation and relationship-building objectives.

KMK would like to further stress that the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia are Rights Holders whose constitutionally-protected rights may be impacted by electricity planning, transmission development, generation procurement, and associated energy infrastructure decisions. Future annual reports should distinguish between Rights Holders and general stakeholders in all IESO's reporting parameters.

The Assembly recognizes the important role that IESO plays in planning and operating Nova Scotia's electricity system. The Assembly also recognizes the need to advance alternative sources of energy as we collectively work toward reducing reliance on fossil fuels within Mi'kma'ki. As IESO looks toward 2027 and beyond, we hope to see more meaningful and sustained engagement with Mi'kmaw communities, greater recognition of the Mi'kmaq as Rights Holders rather than as stakeholders, and improved reporting on how Mi'kmaw perspectives and interests have influenced decision-making processes.

Please contact Patrick Butler, Manager of Consultation at KMK, with any questions.

Yours in Recognition of Mi'kmaw Rights and Title,

Patrick Butler on behalf of Twila Gaudet, B.A., LL. B.
Director of Consultation
Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn

C.C.:
Patrick Butler, Kwilmu'kw Maw'klusuaqn
Kris Buurman, Kwilmu'kw Maw'klusuaqn
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