
Nova Scotia Energy Board

IN THE MATTER OF

*The Maritime Link Act, S.N.S 2012 c.9
and the
Maritime Link Cost Recovery Process Regulation, N.S. Reg. 189/2012*

NSPML Quarterly Report Q3, 2026

REDACTED

October 15, 2026

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1 **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

2
3 This is the Q3 2026 Quarterly Report for the Maritime Link as directed by the Nova
4 Scotia Energy Board (Energy Board or Board) where the Energy Board ordered in its
5 Supplemental Decision (M05419):

6
7 [115]....detailed reports must be filed by NSPML on a semi-
8 annual basis, on June 15 and December 15 each year. The reports
9 shall commence December 15, 2013. Updated status reports must
10 be filed quarterly.
11

12 As per the Energy Board’s order in its Decision regarding NSPML’s Application for
13 final approval of Maritime Link Project Costs and approval of the 2022 Cost Assessment
14 (M10206), NSPML continues its quarterly reporting to the NSEB by way of this Report.
15 Additionally, this report includes updates related to submarine cable protection
16 (M12285), updates on LTAMP progress (M12394), and additional information as
17 requested by the Energy Board in letters related to prior quarterly reports.
18

19 Given that the benefits to ratepayers of the Nova Scotia Block and Newfoundland &
20 Labrador Hydro (NLH) market-priced energy are secured by Nova Scotia Power
21 through the Maritime Link, Nova Scotia Power continues to report on these in its
22 Quarterly Maritime Link Benefits Report.

2.0 UPDATE ON THE MARITIME LINK

2.1 Safety and Environment

Safety and environmental performance excellence remains a fundamental core value and is embedded in every aspect of NSPML's operations. The company maintains a strong risk-based approach to planning and executing all work activities, ensuring hazards are identified, assessed, and controlled throughout the lifecycle of each project.

NSPML has achieved strong performance in 2026, with zero recordable safety incidents and zero environmental incidents to date. During the most recent period, NSPML successfully completed its annual site maintenance outage, submarine cable protection activities, transmission management program, and routine operational work without safety or environmental incidents. This success reflects the commitment of employees, contractors, and leadership to maintaining a strong and proactive safety and environmental performance culture across all NSPML activities.

Maritime Link Marine Environmental Effects Monitoring Program

The Maritime Link Marine Environmental Effects Monitoring Program is concluding this year. This work was a condition of the Environmental Assessment Approval for the Maritime Link from 2013. This recent publication reflects a multi-year stakeholder engagement and study, which has been ongoing since the Project phase, to confirm the Maritime Link submarine power cables do not affect the movement of American lobster and snow crab off Nova Scotia. The detailed report and summary are located on the Emera Newfoundland and Labrador public website.¹ Subject to regulatory approval, which is in progress with NS Department of Environment and Climate Change, NSPML will no longer incur any Environmental Assessment related expenditures in the operations phase.

¹ [Safety & Environment | Emera Newfoundland & Labrador](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page for the Executive Summary, the Report Summary and the Study.

1 **2.2 Land Access Agreements**

2
3 There have been no new developments with respect to these processes since the Q1 2026
4 Report. NSPML continues to work with both the NS and NL Governments in an effort
5 to complete these expropriations.
6

7 **2.3 Joint Development Agreements**

8
9 The Regulation Service Agreement is pursuant to the Energy & Capacity Agreement
10 and is being negotiated between NS Power and NLH for their respective System
11 Operators. Although it has followed up with NLH, NS Power has not yet received a
12 response from NLH since the last quarterly report. NS Power and NLH plan to meet at
13 the end of October and, amongst other topics, discuss this item.
14

15 IESO Nova Scotia is not involved in this issue.
16

17 Given prior references by the Board to potential disallowances to NSPML if customers
18 experience harm as a result of the Regulation Service Agreement not being finalized,
19 the Company continues to encourage NS Power and NLH to complete their negotiations.
20

21 **2.4 Submarine Cables**

22
23 The report for the nearshore subsea inspection survey of the rock berms at the Horizontal
24 Directional Drilling exit location that was completed this past May is included as
25 Confidential Attachment 1. Please refer to the summary of the project in Attachment 2.
26

27 As previously discussed in the Maritime Link Quarterly Reports, the first portion of
28 NSPML's Cable Protection Project (Project) for the submarine cables took place in
29 October and November of 2025. The second portion of the Project was successfully
30 concluded in August 2026.

1 With the cable protection work now complete, the Company is preparing the final
2 costing application with a goal to file before the end of the year. Although NSPML
3 continues to gather information to support the associated final costing submission, it
4 confirms that actual costs will be below the Project's approved amount. Subject to Board
5 approval, NSPML will incorporate the impact of those capital savings into the final 2027
6 and 2028 assessment (depreciation) amounts and file the information with the Board to
7 support such adjustments. Given the capital work depreciates over 30 years, the
8 associated reduction is not expected to be material relative to the assessment amounts.
9

10 Regarding the upward looking sonar (ULS) that could not be recovered previously, there
11 has been no change in status and NSPML will update the Board should that status
12 change.
13

14 With respect to NSPML's Subsea and Land Cable Maintenance and Repair Plan,
15 NSPML confirms that there have been no changes made in this quarter.
16

17 In terms of the pending 2027 Marine Survey, on October 7, 2026, proposals were
18 received and the detailed assessment is underway. The Company is on track to award
19 the work to the most appropriate supplier and is also on track to provide the Board and
20 participants with forecasted costing by the end of the year, or shortly after.
21

22 **Update on CCI Recommendations**

23

24 During NSPML's oral argument on October 30, 2024 regarding NSPML's 2025
25 Assessment (M11792), Vice Chair Deveau inquired as to whether there was any update
26 on recommendations 2 and 3 from CCI regarding NSPML's Final Project Cost
27 proceeding (M10206) in 2021.² NSPML provided an update in the Quarterly Report for
28 December 2024.

² Recommendation number 1 is closed.

1 There are currently no further updates on recommendation number two.

2
3 With respect to recommendation number three, there has been new industry failure rate
4 information published by CIGRE. The report was published as part of the Paris Session
5 2026 that took place this past August, CIGRE Paper ID 10426. This report covers the
6 period from 2014 to 2023 with failure rate for DC mass impregnated submarine cables
7 of [REDACTED]/100km years (average for all voltages for the applicable cable category). The
8 previous CIGRE industry data published (Paper ID 11258, Paris Session 2024) which
9 reflected the period from 2012 to 2021 was [REDACTED]/100km years, and before that TB815
10 as referenced in M10206 which reflected the period from 2006 to 2015 was
11 [REDACTED]/100km years. This update reflects a slight softening in the historic internal failure
12 data which is as expected.

13
14 NSPML will continue to provide this and other updates as applicable to the Board and
15 stakeholders through its Quarterly Report.

16 17 **2.5 Converters and Substations**

18
19 The Maritime Link maintained strong availability year to date, achieving 98.7% Energy
20 Availability (percentage of time that 500 MW would be able to transfer across Maritime
21 Link) and 99.9% Monopole Availability up to the end of September.

22
23 NSPML completed a successful maintenance outage during the period of September 14
24 to September 20. Key equipment that was inspected and maintained included fire
25 systems, valve cooling, converter transformers, capacitors and reactors.

26 27 **2.6 Transmission Lines**

28
29 The overhead transmission system continued to perform well with no significant
30 reliability or availability issues experienced. Drone inspection was successfully
31 completed as planned in parts of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia this period. There
32 were two observations on the HVDC lines (one in NL and the other NS) that required

1 timely resolution. NSPML’s transmission line contractor mobilized promptly upon
2 NSPML’s request and, in conjunction with NSPML staff, efficiently and successfully
3 planned and executed the repairs.

4
5 A second helicopter inspection of all lines will be completed later in 2026.

6
7 Vegetation management activities for the year were completed on the Newfoundland
8 grounding line and is well underway on the Newfoundland HVDC transmission line and
9 Nova Scotia grounding line.

10
11 LiDAR data acquisition of all lines was completed during this period.

12 13 **2.7 Independent Engineer**

14
15 NSPML remains engaged with the Independent Engineer (IE) related to the operations
16 phase of the Maritime Link, as per the Federal Loan Guarantee requirements. The IE’s
17 site visit report for May is included as Attachment 3.

18
19 As requested by the Board, below are updates on two items in the prior IE report:

20 21 *Special Protection System Report (from Q2 Report)*

22 Please find attached as Confidential Attachment 4 the Inspection and Test Record (ITR)
23 for the Special Protection System (SPS) initiative at Bottom Brook. The ITR was the
24 final commissioning record for the SPS changes, after which they were put in service.

25
26 This Special Protection System (SPS) minimizes potential constraints to ML flows in
27 circumstances where there are outages of any combination of the 230kV transmission
28 lines connected into Bottom Brook AC Substation, maximizing the power transfer
29 capability from NL to NS and ensuring the reliability of the transfer.

1 *Reactor Hall Door Trip (from Q2 Report)*

2 While the door switch issue previously reported has not since re-occurred, another type
3 of switch was selected and installed on the exterior doors of the Pole 2 Valve/Reactor
4 Halls in Bottom Brook during the scheduled annual outage in September 2026. The
5 remaining door switches will be completed during a future opportunity.

6
7 **2.8 Status of NLH Project and Muskrat Falls**

8
9 The Lower Churchill Falls Project has four main components; Maritime Link, Labrador
10 Island Link (LIL), Labrador Transmission Assets (LTA), and Muskrat Falls. All of
11 these assets, with the exception of Maritime Link, are owned, operated and maintained
12 by NLH. Muskrat Falls assets include the turbines and generators, while the LIL assets
13 include the synchronous condensers at Soldiers Pond.

14
15 NSPML provides a link to NLH's quarterly filings with the Board of Commissioners of
16 Public Utilities for the Board's reference. The latest quarterly filing is available on the
17 Newfoundland Board site, [here](#).³ The Board of Commissioners discontinued NLH's
18 requirement to file separate LIL quarterly reports since the LIL commissioning and
19 900MW testing was achieved.⁴ NLH's Lower Churchill Project asset status and
20 performance can be found in NLH's other regularly recurring reports.

21
22 **Labrador Island Link High Voltage Test**

23
24 The 900 MW (LIL) test occurred in March. In the Q1 report on Asset Performance in
25 Support of Resource Adequacy filed with the Board of Commissioners of Public
26 Utilities, NLH provided the following update:

³ <http://www.pub.nl.ca/indexreports/12month/From%20NLH%20-%20Q2%202026%20Report%20on%20the%20Rolling%2012%20Month%20Asset%20Performance%20in%20Support%20of%20Resource%20Adequacy%20-%202026-07-31.PDF>

⁴ <http://www.pub.nf.ca/indexreports/lilquarterly/To%20NLH%20-%20Labrador%20Island%20Link%20Quarterly%20Update%20Reports%20-%202026-06-24.PDF>

LIL high-power testing was successfully completed on March 25 and 26, 2026. Test documentation has been reviewed and accepted and the LIL has been released for operation up to 900 MW by the Newfoundland and Labrador System Operator and the Government of Canada's Independent Engineer.⁵

Following that update, in the Q2 report (linked above) NLH filed the following:

Since commissioning in April 2023, the LIL has been in service and successfully providing power to the provincial grid. Test documentation has been reviewed and accepted, and the LIL has been released for operation up to 900 MW by the Newfoundland and Labrador System Operator and the Government of Canada's Independent Engineer.⁶

The LIL has been accepted by the Newfoundland System Operator to operate at 900 MW and NSPML understands this is the final milestone in the LIL project.

2.9 Status of Benefits to NS Power Customers

With NLH's commissioning of the LIL early in 2023, all aspects of the Muskrat Falls Project are now fully operational, supporting significant use of the Maritime Link and providing substantial benefits to customers in Nova Scotia.

Customer benefits received to date are being reported by NS Power with its Quarterly Maritime Link Benefits Report and otherwise in accordance with the Board's directions in Decision M10206.

2.10 Update on LTAMP

During the 2026 Assessment hearing in December 2026, NSPML agreed to provide quarterly updates on the commercial LTAMP progress while respecting the sensitivity of the content. The Company provided the first quarterly update in Q1 2026.

⁵ Quarterly Report on Asset Performance in Support of Resource Adequacy for the Twelve Months Ended March 31, 2026, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, filed with the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, May 4, 2026, page B-3.

⁶ Quarterly Report on Asset Performance in Support of Resource Adequacy for the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2026, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, filed with the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, July 31, 2026, page B-2.

1
2 In the Decision on the Application for Approval of its 2026 Revenue Requirement and
3 Cost Assessment (M12394) at paragraph 36, The Board directed NSPML as follows:

4
5 The Board agrees and directs NSPML to provide quarterly status reports
6 on the commercial in-service LTAMP, with the first report due July 31,
7 2026. The quarterly reports are to be filed with the Board until the
8 commercial in-service LTAMP and related true-up application is filed
9 with the Board.

10
11 The NSEB, in its August 24, 2026 letter, agreed that the Company can provide the
12 directed updates in already scheduled future quarterly reports.

13
14 Please refer to Confidential Attachment 5 for LTAMP updates.

15
16 **2.11 Communication Loss Cause**

17
18 The February 2026 loss of communications between Woodbine (Nova Scotia) and
19 Bottom Brook (Newfoundland) was due to physical damage to communications
20 infrastructure in Nova Scotia. The communications service provider indicated that an
21 excavator contacted and damaged their equipment causing the outage to NSPML and
22 other customers of the communications service provider.

23
24 **2.12 July 28, 2026 CBC News Article**

25
26 NSPML can confirm that its employees are not engaged in active conversations
27 regarding an upgrade to the Maritime Link.

1 **3.0 UPDATED COST SUMMARY**

2
3 NSPML continues to track and report costs, actual and forecast, consistent with the
4 methodologies used in the cost forecast represented in the Maritime Link Project
5 Application. Capitalized Project costs reported to the end of June 2026 have been
6 updated to reflect the Board’s Decision in relation to unrecoverable costs. Costs
7 continue to be recorded in accordance with the Affiliate Code of Conduct. All costs
8 provided are in Canadian dollars.

9
10 Actual AFUDC has been tracked and recorded monthly up to December 31, 2017 and
11 has been adjusted from approximately \$209 million to approximately \$208 million in
12 accordance with the Board’s Decision, and below the \$230 million amount originally
13 estimated.

14
15 **Total Actual Project Costs as of the end of Q2 2026**

16
17 In Q2 2026, NSPML’s capital cost attributed to the original ML Project was \$7,496, for
18 a total of \$17,064 year to date. This primarily relates to outstanding land matters.

19
20 The final project closeout and any associated adjustment to final project costs will be
21 filed with the Energy Board once the outstanding land matters (which are currently
22 undergoing expropriation processes in both NS and NL) and legal claims are finalized.

23
24 In Q2 2026, NSPML’s capital cost incurred for sustaining capital was \$1,209,835 for a
25 total of \$1,336,497 year to date. This primarily relates to the delivery of IGBT’s,
26 preliminary work associated with the final phase of the rock installation project, and
27 other small routine capital items.

4.0 2026 ASSESSMENT FINANCIAL UPDATE

NSPML has been receiving monthly cost recovery revenues from NS Power pursuant to the Board’s Decision on May 11, 2026.

**Attachment 1 - Near Shore Survey Report
has been filed as Confidential.**



Memorandum

Date **October 15, 2026**

Subject: **NSPML Summary of Survey Report - NL Nearshore HDD - Multibeam and ROV Surveys, prepared by Seaforth Geosurveys Inc.**

Reference Documents:

1. 26SGI969RPT-1 - Survey Report – Cape Ray, NL Nearshore HDD – Multibeam and ROV Surveys – Apr-Jun 2026 – Seaforth Geosurveys

Introduction

NSPML contracted Seaforth Geosurveys to conduct a partial, nearshore survey of the two Maritime Link subsea cables and cable protection on the Newfoundland (NL) portion of the cables to focus on areas where changes to localized protection were previously observed following storm Fiona in 2022. This area had previously been surveyed in 2022 and 2023 as part of nearshore (partial) survey campaigns and as part of the full-length marine survey in 2024.

The survey collected seabed multibeam bathymetric (April 2026) and visual information (May 2026) for the abovementioned area. The information collected in the survey was a useful input to the 2026 portion of the rock installation work for NSPML's Cable Protection Project, which was completed in August.

Comments

Based on the information collected, the seabed in the survey area does not appear to have experienced material changes relative to the previous inspection survey of 2024. Although some components of each cable's Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) system were now confirmed in the report to be partially exposed, there were no exposures of the cables themselves. Complete details of findings can be found in the confidential document referenced above.



LCP - ML PROJECT

SITE VISIT REPORT MAY 24 TO 28, 2026

Prepared for: Natural Resources Canada and NSP Maritime Link Inc. (NSPML)

IE Point of Contact: Nik Argirov

Date: September 14, 2026

Quality Assurance Statement

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1. GENERAL

On May 26th and 27thth Independent Engineer (IE) team visited Bottom Brook Converter Station, Indian Head Electrode Site and Cape Ray Transition Compound and conducted visual spot checks of HVDC transmission line towers as well as the HVAC line locations. NSPML management arranged the transportation and organized the visits to the sites as well as the meeting at Bottom Brook station. Natural Resources Canada representative attended the virtual meeting at Bottom Brook. Transportation to the sites was by road. Eric Cayouette coordinated the meetings and prepared the reference document.

Ref: Maritime Link Spring Update 2026 dated May 26, 2026

IE team: Nik Argirov (IE Team Lead)

Vlad Kahle (IE Electrical SME)

Hamdy Khalil (IE Transmission Lines SME)

Trip itinerary:

May 24 and 25:

- Travel to Deer Lake/ Corner Brook

May 26:

- Bottom Brook orientation and PPE pick up
- HVDC line visual inspections
- Cape Ray transition compound site visit

May 27:

- Bottom Brook station visits and IE meeting
- Indian Head electrode site visit
- HVAC line visual inspections
- HVDC line inspections
- Travel to Deer Lake

May 28:

- Travel to home bases

2. TRANSMISSION LINES SITES – MAY 26 AND 27, 2026

2.1. HVDC Line

- Several towers, bases and guy wire anchors were visually inspected. Example, structure #'s 067, 134, 194, and 480.
- The transmission line is well maintained and in good condition. It was observed that some of the guy wire shackle bolts were hand tightened, see the photo below. This matter should be referred to Engineering for comments and possibly tighten those loose nuts during the next inspection or maintenance programs.

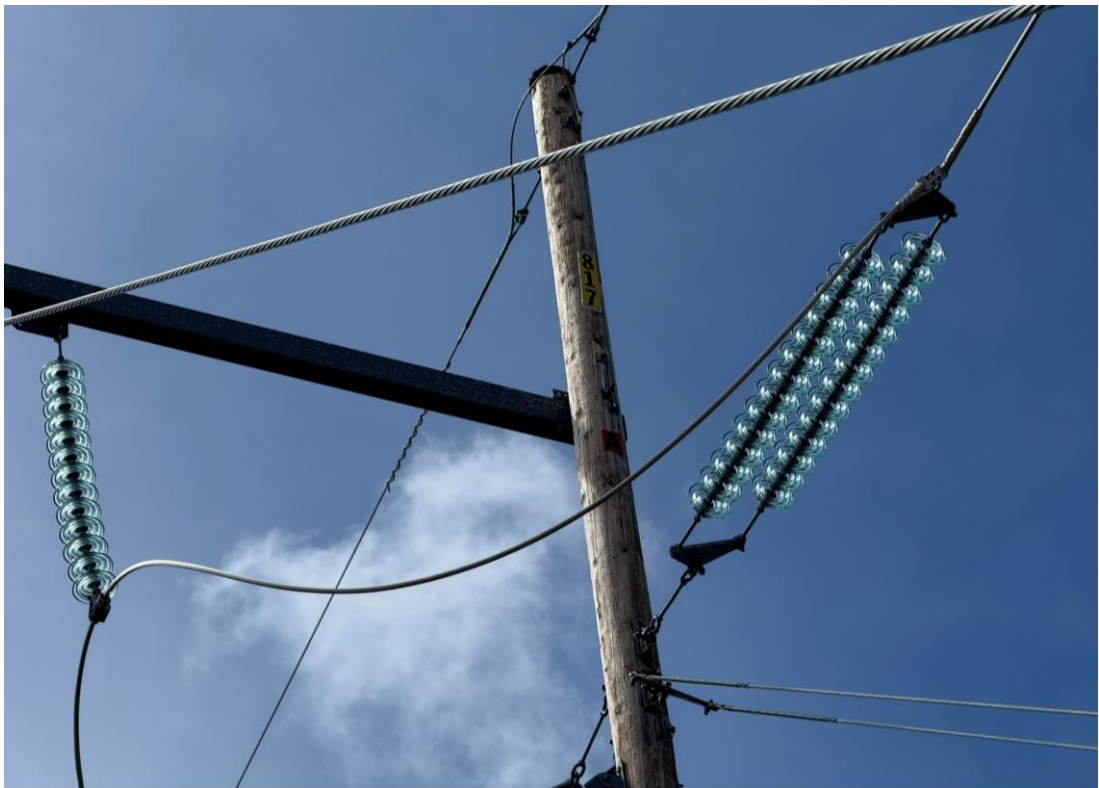
- The right-of-way has been cleared, maintained, and treated. Although the vegetation is low, localized vegetation growth at certain tower locations may obstruct drone-based inspections of tower bases and anchors. This will require ongoing attention.
- The following photos were taken on site:



2.2. HVAC Transmission Line

- Several structures, bases and guy wire anchors were visually inspected. Example, structure #'s 817, 778, and 740
- The transmission line has been well maintained and is in good order.
- The right-of-way has been maintained, cleared, and treated. As with the HVDC line, although the vegetation is low, localized vegetation growth around tower bases and anchor points may obstruct visual observations and inspection activities.
- The team has visited several structure locations. They all look in good order including guy wires, and right of way access. The following photos were taken on site:





3. MARITIME LINK PROJECT SITES – MAY 26 AND 27, 2026

3.1. Cape Ray Transition Compound Site

- The facility has been well maintained and is in good order.
- Corrosion was observed on copper clad wires connecting the structures to station ground grid. Some strands parted reducing the effective cross section of the ground connector. Further investigation, possible conductor replacements and verification of the station ground grid integrity is suggested.

3.2. Indian Head Electrode Site

- The facility has been well maintained and is in good order.
- There are no operational, security or maintenance concerns currently.
- With reference to Cape Ray ground connections corrosion, Indian Head ground connectors are made of copper and show no visible signs of degradation.



3.3. Bottom Brook Converter and Switchyard Site

- The facilities have been well maintained and are in good order.
- Reactor hall door experienced heat induced buckling that initiated a 'door open' trip. Hardware to improve reliability of this interlock has been purchased, installation is pending.

4. MARITIME LINK SPRING UPDATE 2026

Update meeting was held at the Bottom Brook converter station in conjunction with IE site visit. Maritime Link management and Natural Resources representatives joined the meeting virtually.

a) Safety

- Comments focused on vehicle operations such as construction zone speeds, crosswinds and hydroplaning.
- No other issues were identified.

b) Maintenance Outages

- One week is scheduled for HVDC Pole 1 and Pole 2. The outage scopes will address IGBT replacement, annual converter transformer maintenance, fire protection systems, valve cooling maintenance and motor/ pump replacement, power apparatus inspections and transition station corona ring connector replacement.
- There are no planned outages for either the HVDC or Grounding Lines.
- AC Substation outage of transformer 101NS was required for repair small oil leak.
- Minor Sustaining Capital expenditures are expected in 2026 for land assets.

c) 2026 Maintenance Execution

- 381 HVDC systems programs were completed by March 2026.
- Building, fire protection and HVAC equipment was serviced by contractors.

d) Transmission and Grounding Lines

- Two helicopter patrols of each line are planned for 2026; in Q2 (NL complete, NS to be scheduled) and Q4.
- Drone inspection of transmission line structures in 2026, currently planning inspections of roughly 1/3 of HVDC structures (NL & NS), HVAC structures (NL), grounding line structures (NS).

e) Vegetation Management

- An integrated vegetation management approach is planned for the HVDC line ROW in NL, primarily by herbicide application and cutting in select areas.
- For grounding lines in NL and NS, cutting will be carried out in select areas.
- Another LiDAR campaign is planned in NS and NL this year.

f) Marine

- For the 2025/2026 winter season, one of NSPML's two remaining upward looking sonars (ULS) was deployed in Cape Ray to capture ocean data, the other was deployed at Point Aconi for sea ice monitoring.
- The second phase of the Subsea Rock Installation campaign is currently planned for August 2026. The rock will be installed at the Cape Ray HDD. Planning activities are advancing and risk reviews taking place with contractor in Halifax the first week of June.

g) Active Power Availability as end of April 2026

- Monopole – 99.79%
- Pole 1 - 99.72%
- Pole 2 - 99.41%
- Bipole - 99.34%



h) Forced Outages:

- On Feb. 27, 2026 Pole 1 and Pole 2 DC Line Overcurrent Protection tripped both poles. Both A and B interstation communication links were lost between WB and BBK.
 - Third party provider apparently did not provide the required independent and diverse channels. In absence of viable hardware remediations, procedural agreement with the communications provider should improve the communication link reliability.
 - Subsequent manual control of the DC Voltage resulted in uncontrolled condition and the loss of both poles. An interlock was installed to prevent such manual intervention in the future when communication links are lost.
- On April. 21, 2026 Pole 1 Differential Protection issued a block order. AC current measurement card PS845 was replaced and Pole 1 was restored to normal operation.

i) HVDC Special Initiatives:

- Data diode development to enhance operational visibility includes automatic transfer of post- fault TFR and event lists.

5. IE COMMENTS

All sites are fully operational and in good order. Planned maintenance activities have been completed, with no reported safety or environmental issues. The 2026 Maintenance Plan is active, and maintenance outages have been scheduled.

Minor corrective maintenance tasks have either been completed or are currently in the planning stages, and several special initiatives are underway. HVDC forced outages are being analyzed, with anomalies identified and corrected. Overall system performance remains on target, with monopole availability at 99.79% and bi-pole availability at 99.34%.

The issue of corroded ground wires observed in the transition compound requires a follow-up.

**Attachment 4 - Bottom Brook SPS ITR has
been filed as Confidential.**

**Attachment 5 - Q3 LTAMP Update has
been filed as Confidential.**