



Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

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December 17, 2009

By Email: rene.gallant@emera.com

Mr. Rene Gallant
General Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Nova Scotia Power Inc.
14th Floor, Barrington Tower
P. O. Box 910, Scotia Square
Halifax, NS B3J 2W5

Dear Mr. Gallant:

Nova Scotia Power Inc. - 2009 IRP Update Report - November 30, 2009 - P-884

In its letter of February 25, 2009 the Board directed Nova Scotia Power Inc. ("NSPI") to undertake a meaningful, efficient, and timely update of the IRP filed in July 2007. The update was intended to focus on incorporating new information which was not available during the 2007 IRP process, in order to determine what changes may be needed to the 2007 IRP reference plan. Several recent developments, demand-side options, and supply-side options were noted for consideration.

The Board notes that during the following months NSPI undertook an extensive update, led by Dr. John Stutz, which included a collaborative process with Board staff and consultants, and a consultative process with interested parties. Three separate stakeholder technical conferences were held and participants were also provided with opportunities to submit written comments and questions for response by NSPI. The final 2009 IRP Update Report was filed by NSPI on November 30, 2009.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the extensive effort and contributions made by all parties involved in preparing the 2009 IRP Update.

In section 5.0 of its report, NSPI included a three-part Action Plan "to guide and inform planning over the near and long term". It was also stated that reporting obligations were set out to permit updating of the Action Plan.

In the Statement prepared by Dr. Stutz, which is included in the report as Appendix B, he noted that there are a number of points which merit careful consideration regarding the strategy developed

in the 2009 IRP Update. Broadly stated, those points involve DSM, renewable resources (wind and biomass, including co-firing), and environmental constraints. Dr. Stutz also noted that the Action Plan is seen as a continuation of the work begun in the IRP Update, which is consistent with NSPI's comments in the Executive Summary of its report, i.e.:

The IRP Update is a planning exercise. The Update provides strategic direction, rather than prescriptive solutions. Tactics presented in the Action Plan, including pursuit of increased investment in DSM and investment in utility assets, require formal application to the UARB, and subsequent UARB approval before implementation.

Dr. Stutz goes on to state that "timely and thorough reporting on the Action Plan is essential", and the reporting proposed in Part III of NSPI's Action Plan is supported by the consultants who collaborated in this update process.

Consistent with Dr. Stutz's suggestion, the Board accepts the importance of timely and thorough reporting and directs NSPI to follow its Action Plan, addressing all the issues/areas listed in Parts I and II and reporting as discussed in Part III. Accordingly, the Board looks forward to receiving NSPI's initial progress report by August 4th, 2010.

Yours truly,



Nancy McNeil
Regulatory Affairs Officer/Clerk

c	Eric Ferguson, Manager, Regulatory Affairs, NSPI	By email
	S. Bruce Outhouse, Q.C., Board Counsel	By email
	Dr. John Stutz, Board Counsel Consultant	By email
	IRP Update Participants	By email