

**2017-2019 Fuel Stability Plan Application (M07348)**  
**Nova Scotia Power Opening Statement**  
**June 9, 2016**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Panel, I am pleased to make these brief opening remarks on behalf of Nova Scotia Power.

Nova Scotia Power is committed to providing stable, predictable and affordable rates to our customers. To that end we have committed to no non-fuel rate increases for the next three years. On the fuel side of the business, we have brought forward a Fuel Stability Plan, which will stabilize fuel costs over the next three years.

I want to begin by acknowledging the terms of consensus with the Consumer Advocate, the Small Business Advocate, the Industrial Group and the Municipal Electric Utilities of Nova Scotia, which was filed with the Board, and thank the Intervenors for their thoughtful participation in the process, which led to the mutual understandings set out in that document. I would also like to thank Liberty Consulting for their overall review and for their contributions to strengthening the contents of NS Power's proposed hedging plan.

The Company's Reply Evidence and Fuel Refresh showed a 1% to 1.3% average rate increase per year, with the range being directly related to whether the deemed Nova Scotia Block start date is January 1, 2019 or April 1, 2019. As canvassed by NS Power during the technical conference held on June 3, the information available does not lend itself to accuracy on this issue and, from NS Power's perspective, both dates are supportable. As can be seen in the terms of consensus, customer representatives had differing views as to the assumed start date. NS Power was pleased to be able to accommodate these views.

We are pleased that the Company and customer representatives have been able to reach a consensus that is in the best interests of each customer class. This consensus leads us into a historic period. Not only are we achieving the goal of stable, predictable and affordable rates – a goal shared by Nova Scotia Power, our customers, customer representatives, and the Province of Nova Scotia, as demonstrated through the Electricity Plan – but the Maritime Link will also be completed during this period, completing a new Atlantic region electricity loop that increases access to markets for us in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, New York and New England.

Our Fuel Stability Plan will continue the period of rate stability that began in 2015. As you know, rates did not change for most customers in 2015, and they have gone down this year.

This is the result of hard work by Nova Scotia Power employees, strong regulatory oversight, the constructive contribution of regulatory stakeholders, and clear government policy direction. We have stabilized power rates, while at the same time responding to increased environmental

standards and emission restrictions, and completing the most ambitious transition to renewable energy in Canada, reaching a record 26.6% renewable energy last year.

None of this is to suggest that the hard work is over. Not for one minute.

To the contrary, our responsibility to control costs and provide stable, predictable and affordable electricity rates continues as we move toward the 2020 requirement of 40% renewable energy and significantly increased emissions standards.

In conclusion, Nova Scotians want stable, predictable power rates, and we are pleased to deliver them through this Fuel Stability Plan. Our customers have made the investment, and our employees have done the hard work, to get us to a position of rate stability.

We look forward to discussing our Application, our fuel forecasts, and the terms of consensus in further detail through this hearing, as we work collectively to ensure that Nova Scotians are well served.

Thank you.