

January 22, 2026

The Honourable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier Houston,

RE: Nova Scotia Power Rate Application for 2026/2027

At our recent meeting of Municipal Council, a discussion was put forward and a motion made to reach out to express concerns with respect to the General Rate Application (GRA) filing for 2026-2027 customer rates by Nova Scotia Power (NSP), currently under review at the Nova Scotia Energy Board. Specifically, the concerns raised were regarding the proposed increases in residential energy rates, proposed at 3.8% in 2026 and 4.1% in 2027 for residential customers. With the proposed rate increases for other customer classes being lowered or reduced, the optics of this proposed rate change is that the residents of our communities are shouldering the bulk of the operating and capital cost increases of this corporation.

This past year's cybersecurity incident at NSP, which exposed the sensitive information of hundreds of thousands of their customers, shook the trust that many of our residents have in this corporation. Combined with the billing difficulties that resulted from this incident, where residents were questioning estimates and finding it difficult to get answers when contacting customer service, there is a hesitancy from those around our table in believing that residential customers who were hit hardest in the 2025 disruptions should bear the highest percentage of rate increases. Through discussion amongst our council, there was a suggestion to ask for a five-year rate freeze for NSP customers, and even a call for the exploration of how this utility could return to public ownership to ensure that residents are put ahead of profits.

Having reviewed the GRA made by NSP late last year, I can appreciate that, like with utilities provided by our municipality, the operating and capital costs have risen significantly over the past few years due to tariffs, inflation, and several other factors. I also appreciate that NSP opted to maintain their current ROE at 9% to consider its customers, instead of increasing it as recommended in the studies done to support their GRA. However, I encourage the regulatory board and those that have the ability to have input in a decision on this application to consider whether there is a better way to distribute the proposed rate increases across the customer classes so that it does not appear that our residents, as domestic class customers of NSP, are bearing the brunt of the changes put forward.

Sincerely,



Nicholas MacInnis
Warden
