NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by **BERWICK ELECTRIC COMMISSION** for approval to amend its Schedule of Rates and Charges through a modification of its municipal pass-through formula to flow through approved changes in Nova Scotia Power Incorporated's approved rate for its municipal rate class on January 1, 2024

BEFORE: Stephen T. McGrath, K.C., Chair

DECISION AND ORDER

In an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board dated February 21, 2024, the Berwick Electric Commission applied to amend its Schedule of Rates for Electric Supply and Services to allow the utility to pass-through to its customers recent changes approved by the Board in a general rate application for NS Power's rates in 2023 and 2024.

After a public hearing on December 16, 2005, the Board, by Order dated January 17, 2006, approved a formula to allow the utility to pass-through the increase in cost of electric service because of an increase in Nova Scotia Power Inc.'s rates.

On January 29, 2010, the Board approved a formula to recover Demand Side Management and Fuel Adjustment Mechanism adjustments.

In this application, the utility applied to implement a modification to its approved pass-through formula because the data contemplated by the formula was not available due to changes in the source of the utility's wholesale purchases. As such, the Board held a public hearing to consider the application on March 14, 2024. The utility has proposed to amend its rates using the modified formula.

The utility did not ask to formally amend the existing formula. It said it intends to develop an alternate approach to recover its purchased power costs, in consultation with other municipal electric utilities in the province. It expects to seek Board approval for this alternate approach in the future.

The Board approves the application and orders the following:

1. The Schedule of Rates for Electric Supply and Services for 2024, attached to this order as Schedule "A", is approved for service rendered on and after March 15, 2024.

2. The utility is directed to provide the Board with an analysis showing the amount of energy produced by the solar project in the Town of Berwick, each calendar year beginning in 2024, along with the utility's cost for the energy produced and the net-benefit of acquiring energy from the solar project compared to Nova Scotia Power Inc.'s approved municipal rate. The utility must provide this analysis each year until its next general rate application, no later than 60 days after the end of the calendar year.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 18th day of March, 2024.

Clerk of the Board

SCHEDULE A

BERWICK ELECTRIC COMMISSION

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR ELECTIC SUPPY & SERVICES

(Effective for services rendered on and after March 15, 2024)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates for electric supply and service when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

Bills which are not paid within 30 days will be subject to fill interest rate of 1.5% per month or part thereof to a maximum of 19.56% per year.

Each bill shall show the amount payable by the due date as shown on the bill and the interest rate of 1.5% per month or part thereof which is charged on amom1ts unpaid after the due date.

"Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) Increases" (non-FAM and / or DSM)

In order to recover increased costs due to NSPI increases and upon notice by the Berwick Electric Commission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, (the “Board”), the Board may amend the Rates for Domestic service, Small General, General, Domestic Service Time-of-Day (Optional), Industrial, Street Lighting, Yard Lighting, and Other Lighting and Miscellaneous Small Loads, based on the following formula, without the necessity of a public hearing.

1) $A \times B = C$
$C \div D = F\ \%$

2) $G \times H = I$
$I \div J = K\%$

3) $\dfrac{F\ \% + K\ \%}{2} = L\ \%$

A = 2nd previous years’ power cost from NSPI;
B = NSPI approved increase %;
D = 2nd previous total sales for the above classes;
G = Previous years power costs from NSPI;
H = NSPI approved Increase %;
J = Previous years’ total sales for the above classes;
L = Average % increase required to the Berwick Electric Commission rates to recover increased Power costs.

Where the Nova Scotia Demand Side Management ("DSM") Rider, as approved by the Board, is charged on energy purchased by the BEC for distribution to its customers, the Commission shall recover the total billed under that Rider by the following formula:

Using the BEC's most recent projection of sales, losses, production and purchases in the spreadsheet SALES ~ HYDRO ~ w ~ w Budget, produced annually during BEC's budgeting process:

(1) A x B = C where

A = the DSM Rider approved for the year, in dollars

B = the total kWh projected to be billed to BEC with the DSM Rider attached;

C = the total DSM cost to BEC for the year, in dollars.

Then

(2) C/D = E where

D is the total projected sales in kWh to all BEC customers, including street and yard lighting and various small unmetered services

And

E is a Rider in dollars to be applied to all energy sales including street and yard lighting and small unmetered services.

Where the kWh (energy) portion of street and yard lighting or small unmetered charges is incorporated into a monthly charge then the charge for the energy portion shall be adjusted by the Rider and the result incorporated into the monthly charge. For street and yard lighting the energy portion of such charges shall be as represented in NSPI's current Rates and Regulations, and where no monthly kWh value is available, upon the calculated monthly energy.

Where the NSPI Fuel Adjustment Mechanism (FAM) is applied to energy purchased by the BEC for distribution to its customers, the net result of the FAM applied to such purchases shall be rebated to or recovered from all BEC customers by an adjustment to the kilowatt-hour rates charged in all rate classes, and in the street and yard lighting and small unmetered, the adjustment will be to the energy portion incorporated into the monthly charges only. For street and yard lighting the energy portion of such charges shall be as represented in NSPI's current Rates and Regulations, and where no monthly kWh value is available, upon the calculated monthly energy. The formula for calculating the adjustment shall be as follows:

Using the BEC's most recent projection of sales, losses, production and purchases in the spreadsheet SALES ~ HYDRO ~ yy ~ yy Budget, produced annually during BEC's budgeting process:

Ax B = C where A= the FAM adjustment charged to BEC and
B = the total energy in kWh projected to be purchased from NSPI to which the FAM applies and
C = the total FAM effect on BEC for the subject year.

And

C/D = E where D is the total projected sales in kWh to all BEC customers, including street and yard lighting and various small unmetered services and

E is the FAM adjustment to be applied to all energy distributed to BEC customers

The rates shown in this Schedule shall be those adjusted by the FAM and the amount of the FAM adjustment E shall be shown in all rates.

For street lighting, yard lighting, other lighting and miscellaneous small loads, the rates shown in this Schedule shall be those adjusted by the FAM and the DSM Rider.

DOMESTIC SERVICE

Service Charge:	$20.6525 per month.
Energy Rate:	$0.1789 per kilowatt hour for all consumption.
DSM Rider:	$0.00 per kilowatt hour for all consumption (included in energy rate above).
Minimum Bill:	$20.6525 per month.

SMALL GENERAL

Service Charge:	$19.0568 per month.
Energy Rate:	$0.1802 per kilowatt hour for all consumption.
Minimum Bill:	$19.0568 per month.

GENERAL SERVICE

Demand Charge:	$20.8673 per month of maximum demand.
Energy Rate:	$0.1276 per kilowatt hour for all consumption.
Minimum Bill:	$20.8673 per month.

OFF PEAK CHARGING RATE

The rate is available to customers entitled to receive energy at the Domestic Rate as set out in Section 73 (3) of the *Public Utilities Act*, which Section is reproduced below.

"(3) Subject to subsection (4), the rate or charge for electric energy supplied by an electric public utility to a customer that is a senior citizens' club, service club, volunteer fire department, a Royal Canadian Legion, community hall or recreational facility owned by a community and used for general community purposes, a charitable or religious organization shall be at a rate or charge not in excess of the domestic rate."

And who have installed energy storage equipment with a minimum of 500 KWH storage and Minimum 200 KW charge/discharge capacity and agree that the BEC shall have the right to manage charging and discharging of the equipment for purposes of load control and peak demand management.

Should the BEC on any given calendar day discharge more energy than the customer's own usage, the customer will be compensated for that energy at the Off Peak Rate.

Service Charge:	$23.7212 per month.
Energy Charge:	$0.1789 per kilowatt hour for energy between hour ending $0.1370 per kilowatt hour for energy between hour ending 0100 to hour ending 0630.
Minimum Bill:	$23.7212 per month

DOMESTIC SERVICE TIME-OF-DAY RATE (OPTIONAL)

Base Charge:	$23.7212

Energy Charge:

December, January and February

07:00 am to 01:00 pm	$0.3255 per kilowatt hour
01:00 pm to 04:00 pm	$0.1789 per kilowatt hour
04:00 pm to 10:00 pm	$0.3255 per kilowatt hour
10:00 pm to 07:00 am	$0.1272 per kilowatt hour

The above rates apply weekdays (Monday to Friday inclusive) excluding statutory holidays. For Saturdays, Sundays, and statutory holidays, all consumption will be billed at the rate of $0.1272 per kilowatt hour.

March to November

07:00 am to 10:00 pm	$0.1789 per kilowatt hour
10:00 pm to 07:00 am	$0.1272 per kilowatt hour

The above rates apply weekdays (Monday to Friday inclusive) excluding statutory holidays. For Saturdays, Sundays, and statutory holidays all consumption will be billed at the rate of $0.1272 per kilowatt hour.

MINIMUM MONTHLY CHARGE:

The minimum monthly charge shall be $23.7212.

AVAILABILITY:

This rate is only available to customers employing Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) equipment and electric in-floor radiant (i.e. hydronic) heating systems utilizing time shifting technology approved by the Utility.

GENERAL DEMAND TIME-OF-USE RATE (OPTIONAL)

The rate is available to customers meeting the availability criteria of the General Demand rate class who install heat storage systems and controls to enable time shifting of heating and other loads.

Customers choosing to take this rate are required to remain on this rate for one year following the date of inception. One month's notice is required prior to the anniversary date to revert to the General Demand rate. If such notice is not given, it is understood the customer is committing to another 12-month period on the rate. Date of initial service under this rate must be after March 1 and prior to December 1.

Customers taking service under this rate will be billed for energy and demand at the same rates as under the General Demand rate. However, demand charges for demand peaks set outside of the winter peak period and exceeding the winter peak demand period will be discounted. The winter peak demand shall be the maximum demand recorded during winter peak hours; that is non-holiday week days between the hours of 7:00 AM and 11:00 PM during the months of December, January and February. The customer's winter peak demand will be as determined using the highest 15 minute interval data recorded by BEC metering times 4. This winter peak demand will be ratcheted for the succeeding eleven months. Outside of winter peak hours, demand in excess of the ratcheted winter peak demand will be billed at the difference between $6.82 and the BEC General Demand Rate to account for Berwick's billing demand costs, plus 15% to account for power factor, demand losses, and administration.

BEC staff shall be given the opportunity to inspect the storage and control systems to ensure Canadian Electrical Code compliance and to be satisfied the systems will perform as intended. If BEC staff are not confident the systems will perform as intended they may decline to offer the rate.

GENERAL DEMAND PEAK CO-INCIDENCE RATE (OPTIONAL)

The rate is available to customers meeting the availability criteria of the General Demand rate class who install heat storage systems and/or controls to enable load shedding upon receipt of a signal sent by electronic means by BEC'S peak shaving software. Customers choosing to take this rate are required to remain on this rate for one year following the date of inception. One month's notice is required prior to the anniversary date to revert to the General Demand rate. If such notice is not given, it is understood the customer is committing to another 12-month period on the rate. Date of initial service under this rate must be after March 1 and prior to December 1.

Customers taking service under this rate will be billed for energy and demand at the same rates as under the General Demand rate.

Customers choosing to take this rate will be sent a Demand Control signal when the BEC system is approaching a peak demand defense point during the winter peak period. The winter peak period is all hours between 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM on non-holiday weekdays during December, January, and February. The customer will then be expected to reduce load, until another signal to restore load is sent by BEC. The number and duration of demand control intervals will be limited as set out below.

Customers will receive a demand control credit equal to the customer's demand reduction measured in kilowatts, co-incident with the BEC's winter peak, times 85% BEC's Demand costs. For clarity the formula is:

Demand reduction in kW x ($6.82 x .85) x 12

The customer's demand reduction shall be as reflected in interval data recorded by BEC metering and the BEC winter peak will be the current forecast 7500kW.

Each November BEC establishes a peak demand defense point, based on the experience of the previous winter and known and predicted changes to the system. Factorydale hydro is dispatched to defend this demand defense point and the point may be adjusted over the winter peak period if the demand defense point is exceeded. BEC shall set the initial demand defense point at a reasonable level using best judgment and forecasting, and shall dispatch all of its own resources prior to issuing demand control signals; the demand defense point shall not be lower than 90% of the forecasted level.

BEC staff shall be given the opportunity to inspect the storage and control systems to ensure Canadian Electrical Code compliance and to be satisfied the systems will perform as intended. If BEC staff are not confident the systems will perform as intended they may decline to offer the rate.

Demand control intervals shall not exceed 8 hours in duration and 12 hours in any calendar day, and the number of demand control intervals shall not exceed 8 intervals in each of December, January, and February.

INDUSTRIAL

Demand Charge: Energy Charge: DSM Rider:	$18.3101 charge per month per kilovolt ampere of maximum demand.
Energy Charge:	$0.1198 charge per kilowatt hour for the first 100 kilowatt hours per month per kilovolt ampere of maximum demand.
Voltage Adjustment:	Where a customer takes service under this rate and where the metering point is at 4kV or higher voltage, energy consumption shall be reduced by 1.75% for billing purposes.

Demand Reduction Rider

Where it can be shown, that a customer, with 6 out of 12 monthly billing demands in the calendar year in excess of 1000 kVA, has contributed through a concentrated effort at reducing his winter peak demands at a time co-incident with the Utility's peak demand requirement, to a reduction in the Utility's billing peak established with NSPI, any resultant savings to the Utility shall be shared on a 50/50 basis with said customer. To qualify, the average of the customer's monthly billing demands in the months of December, January, February must amount to no more than 80% of the average in the following July/August/September (1600 kVA versus 2000 MVA for example). The Utility will work closely with the customer to co- ordinate the time co-incident requirement of this rider. The savings will be applied to the customer bills for the months of October and November and shown as equal credits on the bills. The savings will be calculated based on rates in effect at the time the demand reduction took place and reflected as a "Demand Reduction Credit".

Import Electricity Rebate:

The Utility will undertake good faith efforts to purchase imported electricity when it is more economic to make such purchases than to purchase the same amount of electricity from NSPI. The Utility shall provide a monthly Import Electricity Rebate (the “Rebate”) to customers taking service under this Industrial Rate to account for any such economic purchases. The monthly Rebate shall be determined by calculating the differential between (i) the total cost that the Utility would have otherwise incurred had it purchased that same amount of electricity from NSPI.

The monthly Rebate will be provided to individual customers taking service under this Industrial Rate in proportion to the percentage of each customer’s usage under this Industrial Rate. The amount of Rebate to be paid to individual customers pursuant to this mechanism shall be capped at the point at which the amount paid by the customer to the Utility for electricity service for the previous 12 months is equal to the amount that would have been paid by the customer in the same period if it was a customer of NSPI and had made its payments for electricity pursuant to the applicable NSPI tariff. The customer’s monthly bill will show the calculation of the Rebate.

STREET LIGHTING

(Lamps burning 4,000 hours per year, lighting system supplied and maintained by the commission, consisting of luminaries' bracket-mounted on existing wood poles and energized from existing secondary circuits).

88 watt LED streetlight	$16.1724 per lamp per month

CROSSWALK LIGHTING

(Crosswalk lighting: fixtures supplied by the Town of Berwick; power, energy and maintenance supplied by the Commission.)

40 watt fluorescent fixture	$11.3615 per fixture per month
400 watt fluorescent fixture	$44.4293 per fixture per month

YARD LIGHTING

(Lamps burning 4,000 hours per year, lighting system supplied and maintained by the Commission, consisting of luminaries' bracket-mounted on existing wood poles and energized from existing secondary circuits.)

55 watt LED yard light	$11.8270 per lamp per month
88 watt LED yard light	$16.1724 per lamp per month
125 watt mercury vapour	$14.3590 per lamp per month
175 watt mercury vapour	$19.2497 per lamp per month
250 watt mercury vapour	$24.1621 per lamp per month
400 watt mercury vapour	$34.1195 per lamp per month
400 watt mercury vapour floodlamp	$34.1195 per lamp per month
70 watt high pressure sodium lamp	$14.5095 per lamp per month
100 watt high pressure sodium lamp	$17.9140 per lamp per month
150 watt high pressure sodium lamp	$23.2148 per lamp per month
250 watt high pressure sodium lamp	$29.7721 per lamp per month
400 watt high pressure sodium floodlamp	$34.1989 per lamp per month
250 watt metal halide floodlamp	$24.1885 per lamp per month
250 watt high pressure sodium floodlamp	$24.1885 per lamp per month
400 watt MH halide floodlamp	$34.1195 per lamp per month
70 watt high pressure sodium cobra head	$16.6265 per lamp per month

OTHER LIGHTING & MISCELLANEOUS SMALL LOADS

(Applicable to street lighting, sign lighting and similar unmetered loads where demand, time of use and energy consumption are known and the Commission supplies power and energy only.)

Demand Charge:	$20.0081 per month per kilowatt.
Energy Charge:	$0.1288 per kilowatt-hour.