

September 14, 2010

Clerk of the Board
NSUARB
Box 1692, Unit M
Halifax, NS B3J 3S3

Re: Nova Scotia Power Proposed Rate Increase

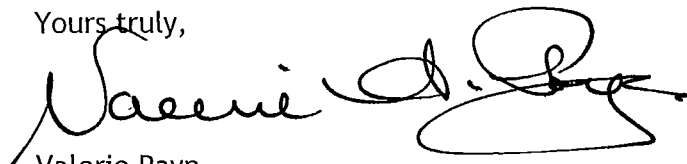
The Halifax Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to address Nova Scotia Power Incorporated's application to review its Base Cost of Fuel Reset and Fuel Forecast Standardized Filing for the 2011 Fuel Adjustment Mechanism.

First and foremost, it should be noted that we fully support both the province's environmental targets restricting the amount of mercury in our fuel and Nova Scotia Power's willingness to work to achieve those goals. These are important steps that will move us towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy sector. The Chamber was also pleased to learn that the Nova Scotia government announced it will extend its 2011 mercury emission cap to 2014; meaning that NSPI's 2011 rate hike, if accepted, will not be as large as initially anticipated.

However, we would still like to reinforce our grave concerns in regards to the timing of this proposed rate hike. Our members are still feeling the effects of a sluggish economy and have just been hit with a 2% HST increase. This, coupled with a proposed bridge toll increase and an anticipated and significant raise in water rates, are serious burdens for our small business sector to bear.

The Chamber would urge you to consider the broader repercussions such a rate increase could have when combined with these other increases, and therefore examine any potential resolutions to this request that would somehow mitigate the financial strain on the business community.

Yours truly,



Valerie Payn
President & CEO

Copy Rob Bennett, Nova Scotia Power