

Nova Scotia Wholesale Electricity Market Rules

Chapter 3: Reliability Planning Requirements

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3 Reliability Planning Requirements

3.0 Description

This chapter sets out the reliability-related obligations of all parties in the planning timeframe. These rules apply to the NSPSO, to NSPI transmission, and to Market Participants who are responsible for Facilities registered in the market, and to Connection Applicants.

3.1 Reliability Planning Responsibilities

3.1.1 NSPSO Responsibilities

3.1.1.1 The NSPSO is responsible within NSPI for directing the Reliable operation of the Bulk Electricity Supply System in Nova Scotia in fulfillment of NSPI's obligations under:

- a) the Legislation and Regulations;
- b) orders of the Board, including in respect of General Reliability Standards, (including policies and codes) prescribed by such orders;
- c) except as superseded by order of the Board, NSPI's membership agreement in NPCC, the General Reliability Standards, (including policies and codes) associated therewith: and
- d) NSPI's interconnection agreement with the New Brunswick System Operator (NBSO), including in particular those obligations arising in support of the NBSO's function as Reliability Coordinator for the interconnected system in the Maritime region.

3.1.1.2 The NSPSO is responsible for:

- a) fulfillment of its obligations under the Market Rules;
- b) identification of any amendments to Market Rules or changes in standards, codes and Market Procedures required to reflect changes in

General Reliability Standards, (including policies and codes), and the Maritime region requirements; and

- c) general planning and coordination for the Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System.

3.1.2 Other NSPI Division Responsibilities

3.1.2.1 NSPI PP, NSPI Customer Operations and NSPI Customer Service divisions are responsible within NSPI for their respective obligations arising from:

- a) the Legislation and Regulations;
- b) orders of the Board, including in respect of general reliability standards, (including policies and codes) prescribed by such orders;
- c) except as superseded by order of the Board, NSPI's membership agreement in NPCC, and the General Reliability Standards, (including policies and codes) associated therewith;
- d) NSPI's interconnection agreement with the NBSO,
- e) the Market Rules.

3.1.3 Other Market Participant Responsibilities

3.1.3.1 Other Market Participants are responsible for their compliance with:

- a) the Market Rules;
- b) orders of the Board, including in respect of General Reliability Standards, (including policies and codes) prescribed by such orders; and
- c) except as superseded by order of the Board, the General Reliability Standards, (including policies and codes) established by NERC and NPCC.

3.2 Technical Standards

3.2.1 General Reliability Standards

3.2.1.1 General Reliability Standards are those established by NERC, NPCC or by order of the Board, and include all associated policies and codes.

3.2.2 Specific Standards

3.2.2.1 The NSPSO may establish technical standards under its authority in section 1.5.

3.2.2.2 Such standards may address the application of General Reliability Standards in Nova Scotia, or may address other matters pertaining to the operation of the Bulk Electricity Supply System or of the wholesale electricity market.

3.2.2.3 The NSPSO may amend such technical standards in accordance with the process described in section 2.4.

3.2.2.4 No such technical standard or amendment shall be in conflict with the General Reliability Standards.

3.2.2.5 The NSPSO shall Publish all such technical standards, and shall Publish a list of such standards including the latest revision date of each.

3.2.2.6 Market Participants are responsible for the compliance of their Facilities with such standards established by the NSPSO, except as permitted by Temporary Waiver granted in accordance with section 2.5.

3.2.2.7 The NSPSO may also incorporate technical standards into the standard Generator Interconnection Agreement or the Network Operating Agreement attached to the Transmission Tariff. Responsibility for compliance with such standards is established in those agreements.

3.3 Forecasts and Assessments

3.3.1 Timing and Scope of Forecasts and Assessments

3.3.1.1 The NSPSO shall make and Publish 18 month forecasts and assessments of system capacity and adequacy by the end of each April and October each year for the periods starting in May and November respectively. This 18 month forecast and assessment shall have an 18 month time horizon and weekly granularity. This 18 month forecast and assessment is intended to provide a basis for outage planning and coordination, and for medium term Market Participant operational planning.

3.3.1.2 The NSPSO shall file with the Board its 10 year energy and demand forecast by the end of April each year for the 10 year period beginning in the following January.

3.3.1.3 The NSPSO shall make and Publish its 10 year forecast and assessment of system capacity and adequacy by the end of June each year for the period beginning in the following January. This 10 year forecast and assessment shall have a 10 year time horizon and monthly granularity. This 10 year forecast and assessment shall contain the information necessary to provide a basis for identification of system-wide or location-specific shortfalls in capability as a basis for planning investment in DSM, generation and transmission.

3.3.1.4 The NSPSO shall, jointly with the NBSO and Maritime Electric Company Limited, prepare a triennial “5 year assessment” of the Maritime area in accordance with the requirements of the General Reliability Standards.

3.3.2 Inputs from Others

3.3.2.1 The NSPSO shall perform all of these forecasts and assessments with inputs from NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System, Generation Market Participants, Load Market Participants and Connection Applicants.

3.3.2.2 The NSPSO shall specify to Market Participants and Connection Applicants, directly or in a Market Procedure, the information it requires and the date by which it requires such information.

3.3.2.2 Market Participants and Connection Applicants shall provide the required information to the NSPSO by the dates specified.

3.3.3 Content of Forecasts and Assessments

3.3.3.1 The forecasts will reflect the NSPSO's expectations of firm and interruptible demand and energy requirements taking account of information provided by others and of established DSM programs, and may reflect a range of such expectations.

3.3.3.2 The assessments will reflect the requirement to maintain reserves at the level required of NSPI as its contribution to Maritime area fulfillment of the General Reliability Standards.

3.3.3.3 The assessments will reflect the impacts of transmission and generation investments committed in accordance with approved NSPI system plans, generation and DSM investments committed by Market Participants, and planned retirements or capability changes advised to the NSPSO.

3.3.3.4 The 18 month assessments will reflect the Outage Plans of NSPI Customer operations in respect of the Transmission System and of other Market Participants in respect of Generating Facilities as notified to the NSPSO.

3.3.3.5 The 10 year assessments will indicate the needs for new investments and the extent to which existing plans and Connection Applications would satisfy such needs.

3.3.4 Imports, Exports and Export Generating Facilities

3.3.4.1 The NSPSO shall, subject to its being satisfied as to the nature of the commitments, take account in its assessments of long term firm import

contracts that are backed by firm transmission rights or reservations as contributing to the Adequacy of the Bulk Electricity Supply System.

3.3.4.2 The NSPSO shall take account of long term firm export contracts as adding to its energy and demand forecasts.

3.3.4.3 The NSPSO shall reflect in its forecasts and assessments the offsetting effects with respect to energy and demand (but not necessarily with respect to transmission or Ancillary Services) of an Export Generating Facility and its associated export contract.

3.4 NSPSO System Planning

3.4.1 Responsibility of the NSPSO

3.4.1.1 The NSPSO is responsible for the preparation of the NSPSO system plan and the coordination of inputs thereto. The NSPSO shall specify information needed from NSPI divisions and other Market Participants and Connection Applicants, shall set the deadlines for submission of such information, and shall establish the parameters and methodology to be used in evaluation of alternatives.

3.4.1.2 The NSPSO shall reflect in the NSPSO system plan the information received from NSPI divisions and from other Market Participants and Connection Applicants.

3.4.1.3 The NSPSO shall evaluate the information received from NSPI divisions and from other Market Participants and Connection Applicants in order to develop the NSPSO system plan.

3.4.1.4 Nothing in these Market rules or the NSPSO system plan affects the requirement for capital expenditure approval by the Board pursuant to the provisions of the *Public Utilities Act*.

3.4.2 Scope of the NSPSO System Plan

3.4.2.1 The NSPSO system plan will address:

- a) transmission investment planning;
- b) DSM programs operated by NSPI Customer Service division or others;
- c) NSPI generation planning for existing Facilities, including retirements as well as investments in upgrades, refurbishment or life extension;
- d) new Generating Facilities committed in accordance with previous approved NSPSO system plans;
- e) new Generating Facilities planned by Market Participants or Connection Applicants other than NSPI, and
- f) requirements for additional DSM programs and / or generating capability (for energy or ancillary services).

3.4.3 Planning Horizon and Scope

3.4.3.1 The purpose of the plan is to set out planned system developments, and to identify particular major investment decisions and other investment plans which are expected to be subject to Board approval, and that would require to be approved by the Board within 18 months of plan completion date, within the context of the system requirements over at least the next 10 years.

3.4.3.2 The plan shall include identification of explicit major decisions to undertake certain investments, and of implicit decisions which may constrain options for future decisions.

3.4.3.3 The plan shall include all significant transmission system upgrades that are planned or expected to be required in service within 5 years of the plan completion date.

3.4.4 Planning Criteria

3.4.4.1 In developing its system plan the NSPSO shall have due regard to:

- a) reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System including in particular its Adequacy in accordance with General Reliability Standards;
- b) compliance with environmental legislation and regulations; and
- c) economic evaluation of options.

3.4.4.2 The NSPSO shall not discriminate amongst options on the basis of ownership.

3.4.5 Confidentiality, Publication and Board Process

3.4.5.1 The NSPSO shall submit the draft NSPSO system plan to the Board for the Board's public comment process and for any Board review, and shall at the same time Publish the plan.

3.4.5.2 NSPI PP or Market Participants or Connection Applicants for proposed new generation projects may request to NSPSO that certain information be treated as Confidential Information if its Publication would be expected to be prejudicial to commercial interests beyond the context of the NSPSO system plan.

3.4.5.3 NSPSO shall evaluate any such request for confidentiality and shall:

- a) determine the extent of such information essential to enable readers to understand the NSPSO system plan and the evaluation of options undertaken in preparation of that plan;
- b) inform the provider of the information the details of information that the NSPSO considers to be thus an essential part of the Published system plan;
- c) seek to resolve any difference of opinion over appropriate confidentiality with the provider of the information; and
- d) include essential information in the Publication of the NSPSO system plan.

3.4.5.4 The NSPSO shall file additional supporting Confidential Information with the Board as an appendix to the draft NSPSO system plan, including the request from the relevant party that the Board treat this information as confidential.

3.4.5.5 Following the completion of the Board's public comment process and of any review by the Board, the NSPSO may update the plan and shall publish the final version of the NSPSO system plan.

3.4.6 Timelines

3.4.6.1 Subject to any contrary order of the Board, the NSPSO shall submit the draft NSPSO system plan to the Board for the Board's public comment process and for any Board review, and shall Publish the draft plan each year by the end of June.

3.5 Outage Management

3.5.1 Responsibilities and Basic Obligations

3.5.1.1 The NSPSO shall coordinate Transmission System and Generating Facility Outages to maintain the Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System, including in particular the Adequacy of the system.

3.5.1.2 Except as noted in paragraphs 3.5.1.3 and 3.5.1.4, NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and Generation Market Participants in respect of their Generating Facilities shall not undertake any Outage except a Forced Outage, without:

- a) NSPSO approval of the Outage Plan, and
- b) NSPSO approval to commence the Outage.

3.5.1.3 The Generation Market Participant for an Export Generating Facility shall advise the NSPSO of its Outage Plans in respect of such Export Generating Facility, and may undertake such planned Outages subject to only the normal requirement for approval to De-synchronize as set out in section 4.7.

3.5.1.4 The Generation Market Participant for an Minor Generating Facility shall advise the NSPSO of its Outage Plans in respect of such Minor Generating Facility, and may undertake such planned Outages in accordance with such notification.

3.5.2 Outage Coordination Principles

3.5.2.1 The NSPSO shall coordinate and approve Outage Plans in accordance with the following principles:

- a) The NSPSO shall not approve any Outage Plan that would jeopardise the Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System or any Zone thereof except to the extent that this is unavoidable.
- b) The NSPSO shall seek to facilitate coordination of Outage Plans among the NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System, and Generation Market Participants, subject to confidentiality constraints and the willingness of the NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and of Generation Market Participants.
- c) In facilitating coordination among NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and Generation Market Participants, the NSPSO shall support efforts to optimise economic as well as Reliability impacts.
- d) The NSPSO shall not discriminate amongst Facility Outage Plans on the basis of Facility ownership or Generating Market Participant.

3.5.3 Outage Coordination Process, and Outage Plan Approval and Rejection

3.5.3.1 The NSPSO shall establish the process for coordination and approval of Outage Plans in accordance with the following framework, and shall publish a Market Procedure setting out this process.

3.5.3.2 The NSPSO shall publish a calendar setting out deadlines for each stage in the annual Outage planning cycle, including the “year” to which it applies.

Equipment, Facility and Outage Classification

3.5.3.3 The NSPSO shall include in its Market Procedure the classification for Outage planning purposes of transmission circuits and elements, and Generating Facilities and elements, into those having major, intermediate or only local impact.

3.5.3.4 The NSPSO shall include in its Market Procedure the classification of Outages depending on classification of the equipment or Generating Facility and the planned duration of the Outage.

Information Required

3.5.3.5 The NSPSO shall include in its Market Procedure the information to be included in an Outage Plan submission, which shall include information relating to the opportunity for recall.

Annual Outage Planning Cycle

3.5.3.6 The NSPSO annual Outage planning cycle shall comprise:

- a) NSPI Customer Operations shall Publish its preliminary plan for at least all major and to the extent known, intermediate, Outages in the Transmission System.
- b) NSPI PP and other Generation Market Participants for Generating Facilities shall advise the NSPSO of their preferred Outage Plans for all major and to the extent known, intermediate, Outages, as well as any identified conflicts with the preliminary Transmission System Outage Plan.
- c) NSPI Customer Operations shall communicate with Load Market Participants, with other wholesale customers of NSPI, and with other large customers of NSPI in order to identify any conflicts between such parties' requirements and the preliminary Transmission System Outage Plan, and shall advise the NSPSO of any consequent changes to its preliminary Transmission System Outage Plan.

- d) The NSPSO shall review the preliminary Transmission System Outage Plan and the Generating Facility Outage Plans, and shall identify any Outage Plans:
 - i) that cannot be approved without avoidable jeopardy to the Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System or any Zone thereof;
 - ii) for which approval would be contingent on the ability to recall the equipment or Generating Facility from Outage; or
 - iii) for which better coordination would be expected to result in less economic loss.
- e) The NSPSO shall notify NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System, NSPI PP and other impacted Generation Market Participants, of any of their Outage Plans that cannot be approved and of those Outage Plans that could be better coordinated.
- f) To the extent permitted by the respective Generation Market Participants (including NSPI PP) the NSPSO shall seek to mediate or to facilitate discussion amongst the impacted parties.
- g) NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and Generation Market Participants (including NSPI PP) may submit revised Outage Plans.
- h) The NSPSO shall review the revised Transmission System and Generating Facility Outage Plans, and shall identify and reject any Outage Plans that cannot be approved without avoidable jeopardy to the Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System or any Zone thereof. .
- i) The NSPSO shall approve all Outage Plans that can be approved without avoidable jeopardy to the Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System or any Zone thereof.
- j) In the event of conflict between Outage Plans, the NSPSO shall reject first that Outage Plan for which NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the

Transmission System or the Generation Market Participant has shown the least commitment to collaborative rescheduling.

- k) In the event that, in the judgment of the NSPSO, the impacted parties are equally committed to collaborative re-scheduling, the NSPSO shall reject first the Outage Plan whose rejection would in its opinion have the least total economic impact.
- l) The NSPSO may make its approval of an Outage Plan contingent on the recallability of equipment from Outage on certain terms.

Changes and Additional Outages

3.5.3.7 Any Outage Plan rejected in accordance with the process described in paragraph 3.5.3.6 above may, at the request of NSPI Customer Operations or the Generation Market Participant, stand as an open request, in which case it shall be evaluated in advance of Outage Plans submitted later.

3.5.3.8 Outage Plans submitted to the NSPSO after the deadline for submissions under paragraph 3.5.3.2 above shall be evaluated in the order received.

3.5.3.9 Any material change to an approved Outage Plan shall be evaluated as a new Outage Plan.

3.5.3.10 The NSPSO shall include in its Market Procedure the minimum notice periods by which NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and Generation Market Participants are required to endeavour to submit Outage Plans in respect of different classes of outage that have not been included in the annual Outage planning cycle.

3.5.3.11 The NSPSO shall endeavour to provide advanced approval of Outage Plans, recognising that this is not always possible in view of uncertainties with respect to load forecast, system conditions, or other Outages.

3.5.3.12 The NSPSO shall make its final determination of Outage Plan approval or rejection following its first issue in accordance with paragraph 4.2.1.3 of a forecast covering the first full day of the planned Outage and shall advise NSPI

Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and each affected Generation Market Participant accordingly.

3.5.3.13 The NSPSO may in an emergency, in order to avoid an emergency, or in order to preserve Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System or any Zone thereof, retract approval of an approved Outage Plan.

3.5.4 Outage Commencement, Recall and Completion

3.5.4.1 The approval of an Outage Plan does not constitute final approval to commence the Outage.

3.5.4.2 NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System shall request approval of Outage commencement no more than 2 Business Days, and no less than 6 hours, before the planned commencement of the Outage.

3.5.4.3 Generation Market Participants in respect of their Generating Facilities shall request approval of Outage commencement and of any associated De-synchronization of the Facility no more than 2 Business Days and no less than 6 hours before the planned commencement of the Outage.

3.5.4.4 The NSPSO shall approve Outage commencement unless this would jeopardise the Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System or any Zone thereof, in which case it may either reject the Outage or in consultation with the relevant parties, defer the commencement.

3.5.4.5 The NSPSO may in an emergency, in order to avoid an emergency, or in order to preserve Reliability of the Bulk Electricity Supply System or any Zone thereof, to the extent practical recall equipment from an Outage.

3.5.4.6 NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System or the Generation Market Participant for the Generating Facility shall use all reasonable efforts to comply with such recall instructions and to restore the specified equipment or Generating Facility to service.

3.5.4.7 NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and the Generation Market Participant for a Generating Facility shall use all reasonable

efforts to complete planned Outages in accordance with the approved Outage Plan and to return the specified equipment or Generating Facility to service by the dates specified in such plan.

- 3.5.4.8 In the event that NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and the Generation Market Participant for a Generating Facility identifies that notwithstanding all reasonable efforts to complete planned Outages in accordance with the approved Outage Plan and to return the specified equipment or Generating Facility to service by the dates specified in such plan, NSPI or the Generation Market Participant expects that completion of the Outage in accordance with such approved Outage Plan is at material risk, it shall notify the NSPSO and may seek approval of an extension of the Outage.

3.5.5 Coming into Effect – Transition Provisions

- 3.5.5.1 The NSPSO shall, within one month of the effective date of these Market Rules, undertake an expedited review of existing Outage Plans with NSPI Customer Operations in respect of the Transmission System and Generation Market Participants in respect of their Generating Facilities in order to reconcile and if necessary facilitate the adjustment of such Outage Plans and approve or reject such Outage Plans. Such expedited review and the associated approval or rejection shall take the place of the annual Outage planning process described in paragraph 3.5.3.6.
- 3.5.5.2 The NSPSO may, notwithstanding sub-section 3.5.3, issue an interim Market Procedure which may be incomplete with respect to the requirements set out in subsection 3.5.3, but which shall as a minimum provide to Generation Market Participants the information required for their submission of Outage Plans.

3.6 Emergency and System Restoration Planning and Execution

3.6.1 Designation of Emergency Planning Participants

3.6.1.1 The NSPSO shall from time to time identify which Market Participants other than divisions of NSPI are required to participate in planning for response to electricity system emergencies and for electricity system restoration in order to mitigate damage and optimise restoration of the Bulk Electricity Supply System.

3.6.1.2 The NSPSO shall designate such Market Participants as Emergency Planning Participants, shall advise each such Emergency Planning Participant, and shall maintain a list of such Emergency Planning Participants.

3.6.2 Preparation of Plans

3.6.2.1 Each Emergency Planning Participant shall prepare and maintain a Participant Emergency Plan which shall:

- a) define the levels of authority of responsible personnel of the Emergency Planning Participant in the event of a declared electricity system emergency or of a complete or partial system blackout;
- b) set out the means by which NSPI or other responsible persons may communicate with the responsible personnel of the Emergency Planning Participant;
- c) set out the actions to be taken immediately by responsible personnel in the event of a declared electricity system emergency or of a complete or partial system blackout;
- d) set out the key NSPI or other contact persons and channels of communication to be used in such circumstances, and describe the authority of such contract persons, recognising the provisions in the Standards of Conduct associated with the Transmission Tariff which

permit suspension of those Standards of Conduct in declared electricity system emergencies;

- e) set out any standard procedures to be implemented by responsible persons in the event of a declared electricity system emergency or of a complete or partial system blackout;
- f) recognise the role of the Nova Scotia Emergency Measures Organisation in the event of an emergency declared in accordance with the *Emergency Measures Act*, SNS 1990, c.8.

3.6.2.2 Each Participant Emergency Plan shall address electricity system emergencies and electricity system restoration and may also be part of a plan that addresses other declared emergencies.

3.6.2.3 Each Emergency Planning Participant shall submit its draft Participant Emergency Plan to the NSPSO for review, and shall modify its Participant Emergency Plan to fulfil the reasonable requirements of the NSPSO.

3.6.2.4 Each Emergency Planning Participant shall maintain its plan up to date, and shall provide every update to the NSPSO.

3.6.2.5 The NSPSO shall provide to each Emergency Planning Participant the relevant information from, or the relevant portions of, the NSPI emergency and restoration plan.

3.6.2.6 The NSPSO shall disseminate Participant Emergency Plan information within NSPI as appropriate.

3.6.2.7 The NSPSO may specify confidentiality provisions concerning emergency planning information.

3.6.3 Training and Systems

3.6.3.1 Each Emergency Planning Participant shall train all responsible personnel and shall maintain all communication and other systems required to support execution of its Participant Emergency Plan in good working condition.

3.6.3.2 The NSPSO shall coordinate the participation of Emergency Planning Participants in coordinated training exercises.

3.6.3.3 The NSPSO may review and audit an Emergency Planning Participant's training and preparedness.

3.6.4 Declaration of an Emergency and Execution of Plans

3.6.4.1 The NSPSO may declare an electricity system emergency in accordance with its authority under sub-section 4.9.1 and may or may not suspend its Standards of Conduct in general or in particular.

3.6.4.2 In the event of any such declared electricity system emergency or a system blackout, the provisions of Participant Emergency Plans take precedence over Market Rules only to the extent required for execution of those Participant Emergency Plans.

3.7 Publication and Confidentiality

3.7.1 Confidential Information

3.7.1.1 Confidential Information in respect of Reliability and planning generally includes:

- a) Market Participant and Connection Applicant information provided for NSPSO forecasts and assessments;
- b) Market Participant Outage Plans for Generating Facilities;
- c) Participant Emergency Plans (subject to special provisions as defined by the NSPSO).

3.7.2 Publication

3.7.2.1 The NSPSO shall Publish the following information in respect of Reliability and planning:

- a) technical and other standards;
- b) system forecasts, assessments and plans;
- c) aggregate forecast information with respect to long term import and export contracts considered in the forecasts and assessments, including information aggregated by type of contract;
- d) Outage planning calendar;
- e) aggregated Outage planning information; and
- f) any electricity system emergency planning information that is required to be published for emergency preparedness.