Nova Scotia POWER
An Emera Company

PO Box 910 ● Halifax, Nova Scotia ● Canada ● B3J 2W5

December 12, 2024

Andrew Kennedy
Protected Areas Coordinator
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) is planning pole replacements at three structures on Transmission line L6551 located within the Chignecto National Wildlife Area (CNWA). All structures (024, 025 and 026) are located within the flooded area of the wetland and are not typically accessible. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) have agreed to coordinate a draw-down of the wetland to make these structures accessible with tracked equipment. Swamp matting will be used to cross the wetland areas to protect from damage during equipment access and the winter period has been chosen as the preferred timeframe in order to reduce harm to vegetation during access and equipment travel. More details on the access plan, estimated matting numbers, work methods and equipment required to complete the work is provided below.

NSPI is proposing to complete additional work along this section of the transmission line right of way while the mats have been installed and the right of way is accessible to equipment travel. The additional work includes the replacement of the overhead ground wire across the spans within the CNWA between structures 022 and 029. Additional details on this work are provided below.

Proposed Work to be Completed

1) Structure 024 and 025 Replacement

Structures 024, 025 and 026 are wooden gulf port design construction. Structures 024 and 025 are located within the flooded section of the transmission line right of way and require replacement due to the deterioration of the poles and timbers. Given the isolated location, coordination with ECCC has been required to gain access to the structure with tracked equipment. The structures will be replaced with Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) poles and steel cross arms. This is not standard structure design for this type of structure but NSPI is committed to prolonging the life expectancy of these structures, due to the difficult and isolated access, and to reduce the potential for impacts within the CNWA.

Equipment required to complete this work includes an excavator, tracked pole setter, tracked bucket and tracked crane. The new FRP poles will be set in front of the existing poles with the excavator. Rock may be required to be brought to site for competent backfill materials around the base of the poles. If rock is required, a tracked dump

marooka will be used to transport this material to the pole location. Cribbing may also be required around the base of the poles (circular steel frames backfilled with rock) but this depends on the consistency of the soil material on site.

Following the installation of the poles, the structure will then be framed with the steel cross arm, insulators will be hung and all associated hardware will be fastened. The overhead conductor will then be transferred from the old structure to the new structure and the old structure will be dismantled (in reverse order from the newly installed structure described above). All waste materials will be transported offsite and disposed of at an approved facility.

2) Overhead Ground Wire Replacement

The overhead ground wire along the length of this transmission line is being replaced due to deterioration of the ground wire. Given the access restrictions along this section of the right of way, this work is being proposed to be completed in conjunction with the structure replacement work described above. This work requires access into structures 026 and 027. Additional matting will be installed along the wetland between structures 025 and 026 to provide access.

Running blocks will be attached to the top of each pole at each structure and rope will be passed through the turning blocks. This rope will be used to string a pulling line between all of the structures located within this section of the transmission line. The overhead ground wire will then be pulled through this section using a pulling tensioner, the location of which has not yet been determined but every effort will be made to setup this equipment outside of the CNWA.

Once the new overhead ground wire has been pulled along this section of the transmission line, the crews will return to each structure to transfer the ground wire from the running blocks to the attachment points on top of each pole. The running blocks will then be removed and all waste materials will be transported offsite and disposed of at an approved facility.

Detailed Access Plans

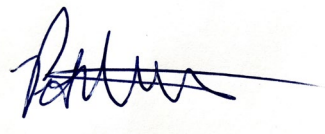
Equipment access into the transmission line right of way will follow the existing access road and established dykes through the CNWA to a location between structures 023 and 024. The access plans provided in Appendix A illustrate the intended route into the L6551 right of way from Smith Road. This access route will be used by all equipment travelling into the right of way, including the tracked equipment used for the maintenance work and the forestry equipment that will be used to transport and place the swamp matts across the de-watered wetland. A small area adjacent to the transmission line will be used as a temporary material laydown area to stockpile swamp mats and materials as they are delivered to site. Ground disturbance is expected to be minimal at this location but silt fence and hay/straw will be available on site if erosion and sediment control measures are needed to prevent erosion of any exposed soils.

Approximately 1500 swamp mats are anticipated to be installed crossing the dewatered area of the wetland. The mats will be transported to site and installed using a

forestry porter. A linear pathway will be made between the edge of the dyke and the transmission line structures to allow for equipment travel. Additional matting will be required around each structure within the wetland to accommodate equipment setup and work. Once all the mats are installed, the work, as described above, will proceed. Once the work is completed the mats will be removed from the wetland and ECCC will be informed that all materials have been removed from the site and the wetland can be flooded again.

NSPI is committed to working closely with ECCC during the matting installation and equipment access. Multiple site visits throughout the duration of the project will be completed by the NSPI environment and management teams to ensure site conditions remain stable. Once all mats have been removed from site, a final site visit will be completed by the project team to document the conditions and complete any site or access road remediation that may be required. Although excessive damage or disturbance to the access route is not anticipated since the work is being completed during winter months and freezing conditions, the large number of mats required to travel the wetland area will result in many trips along the access route with heavy equipment. Some rutting and road damage is likely to occur throughout the duration of the project but NSPI is committed to restoring the access route back to the original condition. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact me at (902) 478-4628 or email at: peter.morrison1@nspower.ca.

Sincerely,



Peter Morrison | Environmental Scientist | **Nova Scotia Power Inc.**
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Appendix A


L6551-024
L5548-048A
L5548-048
L5548-047B
L5548-047A
L6551-023
L5548-047
L-5548
L-6551
Access Route into
Transmission Line right of way
L5548-046
L5548-045
L6551-022
L5548-044
Southampton Rd
Smith Rd
Smith Rd
L5548-043