


NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by the **RIVERPORT ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION** for the approval of a rate rider to recover deferred revenue from the phasing in of the utility's last general rate increase

BEFORE:

 Stephen T. McGrath, K.C., Chair
Julia E. Clark, LL.B., Member
Bruce H. Fisher, MPA, CPA, CMA, Member

DECISION AND ORDER

Riverport Electric Light Commission (RELC) applied to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on November 6, 2024, for approval to begin recovering deferred revenue from the phasing in of a rate increase the Board ordered in RELC's last general rate application (M10810) affecting RELC's Domestic Service, Small General Service and Large General Service rate classes.

In its general rate application decision, the Board directed RELC to phase in its approved rate increase for the affected customer classes over two years, with the difference between the rate cap in the first year, and the full rate approved in the decision, to be deferred for later recovery by RELC, with interest. The Board also directed RELC to track the deferred revenue in 2023 by rate class and to apply to the Board in 2024 for approval to begin recovering the deferral beginning January 1, 2025.

In its application, RELC advised that its Large General Service rate class contained one customer when RELC's load forecast and revenue projections for its 2023 Test Year were completed. However, the customer ceased its operations during 2023, and no consumption or revenue is forecast from the class during the remainder of 2024 or at any time during 2025 or 2026.

RELC's application seeks to begin recovery of the 2023 General Rate Application Deferred Revenue Rider from its Domestic Service and Small General Service rate classes.

The Board determined this proceeding would be conducted by way of a paper hearing and assigned a timeline for the proceeding. A Notice of Paper Hearing was published in the Chronicle Herald on Saturday, November 23, 2024, and was emailed by RELC to its customers with emails on file on November 20, 2025. The Board was advised by RELC,

through Board counsel, that its system would allow it to direct email the notice to over 86% of its customers.

The Board did not receive any Notices of Intervention or Letters of Comment in this matter by November 29, 2024, which was the deadline in the Notice of Paper Hearing for doing so.

In addition to its application, RELC provided responses to information requests from Board staff on December 6, 2024.

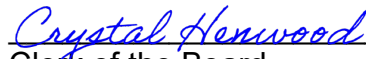
The Board approves the application and orders the following:

1. A 2023 General Rate Application Deferred Revenue Rider for the Domestic Service and Small General Service rate classes is approved, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2026, as follows:

Rate Class	2025	2026
Domestic	0.6994 cents/kWh	0.6994 cents/kWh
Small General	1.1374 cents/kWh	1.1374 cents/kWh

2. The Schedule of Rates for Electric Supply and Services, attached to this order as Schedule "A", is approved for service rendered on and after January 1, 2025.
3. The request for confidential treatment of certain information filed in information request responses is approved.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 12th day of December, 2024.


Clerk of the Board

 **SCHEDULE A**

RIVERPORT ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION

Schedule of Rates for Electric Supply and Service (Effective for all services rendered on and after January 1, 2025)

RATES

The rates requested below are the rates for electric supply and services when payment is made within thirty (30) days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

Interest at a rate of 1.5% per month (19.56% per annum) shall be applicable to any outstanding balance beyond 30 days after the date rendered (i.e. beyond the due date).

Bills rendered shall show clearly the date rendered, the due date, the amount of interest applicable to overdue balances, and the total amount due by the due date.

Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI) Municipal Rate Class Increases

In order to recover increased costs due to NSPI increases and upon notice by the Riverport Electric Light Commission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, (the Board), the Board may amend the Rates for Domestic Service, Small General Service, General Service, Large General Service, Cable TV Power Packs, Street Lighting, and Yard Lighting based on the following formula, without the necessity of a public hearing:

1) $A + B = C$

2) $C \times D = E$

- A = Forecasted power purchase cost from NSPI for the test year;
- B = Forecasted Electric Rate Revenue from above classes for the test year;
- C = Percent, expressed as 00.00;
- D = NSPI approved increase percent, expressed as 00.00;
- E = Average percentage change required to the Riverport Electric Light Commission's rates to recover its purchased power cost.

Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) Municipal Rate Class Adjustments due to Demand Side Management (DSM) and Fuel Adjustment Mechanism (FAM)

To recover DSM and FAM adjustments due to NSPI approved DSM and FAM adjustments and upon notice by the Commissioners of Riverport Electric Light Commission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (the Board), the Board may amend the kWh rates for Domestic Service, Small General, General, Large General, Cable TV Power Packs, and Street and Yard Lighting, based on the following, without the necessity of a public hearing.

For Domestic Service, Small General, General, Cable TV Power Packs, and Large General, the following formula will apply:

- 1) $A + B = C$
- 2) $C \times D / 100 = E$
- 3) $E / F * 100 = G$

A = NSPI DSM Rate changes to Municipal Class (cents per kWh)
B = NSPI FAM Rate changes to Municipal Class (cents per kWh)
C = Net NSPI adjustment (cents per kWh)
D = kWh purchases from NSPI for the test period
E = Total cost adjustment on annual purchases from NSPI for the test period
F = kWh sold by Municipal Electric Utility for the test period
G = Adjustment to Municipal Electric Rates as a result of DSM and FAM charges (cents per kWh)

For Street and Yard Lighting Categories, the following formula will apply:

$$G * H * (4,000 / 1,000 / 12) = I$$

G = Adjustment to Municipal Electric Rates as a result of DSM and FAM charges (cents per kWh)
H = Rated wattage of Street Light
I = Adjustment to monthly charges per streetlight as a result of DSM and FAM charges.

For Domestic Time-of-Use Rates, the following will apply:

- On peak charges are twice the Total Regular Domestic 2nd Block kWh rate;
- Shoulder charges are equal to the Total Regular Domestic 2nd Block kWh rate;
- the off-peak charges are equal to the total purchase price per kWh from NSPI plus losses.

DOMESTIC SERVICE

Service Charge: \$13.87 per month where service is through a two or three wire service.

Energy Rates: 20.17cents per kilowatt hour for the first 200 kilowatt hours per month.

18.10 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption in any billing period, but in no case shall the average price per kilowatt hour on the whole bill, including the service charge, be less than 18.87 cents in any billing period.

Minimum Bill: \$13.87 per month where service is through either two or three wire service.

Availability: The rate for domestic service shall be applicable to all electric energy used by any customer in the private residence occupied by such customer and used for domestic or household lighting, cooking, heating, or refrigeration purposes, and for all other ordinary domestic or household use. It may include milking machines, cream separators, food choppers, and similar farm and fishing appliances served through the same meter and having an aggregate demand not exceeding 5 kilowatts.

**2023 General Rate
Application Deferred
Revenue Rider:**

0.6994 cents per kilowatt hour for service from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026

SMALL GENERAL SERVICE

Service Charge: \$19.09 per month

Energy Rates: 26.35 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 200 kilowatt hours per month.

20.43 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption.

Minimum Bill: The service charge.

Availability: This rate shall be applicable to non-domestic single-phase services where energy does not exceed 10,000 kilowatt hours per year and demand does not exceed 6kW.

GENERAL SERVICE

Demand Charge: \$13.88 per month per kilowatt of billing demand. Billing demand shall be the maximum demand of the present or previous 11 months.

Energy Rates: 20.65 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 100 kilowatt hours per month per kW of billing demand.

12.32 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption.

Minimum Bill: The demand charge.

Availability: This rate shall be applicable to all services not eligible for other rates in this Schedule.

**2023 General Rate
Application Deferred
Revenue Rider:**

1.1374 cents per kilowatt hour for service from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026

LARGE GENERAL SERVICE

- Demand Charge:** \$14.12 per month per kilovolt-ampere of billing demand. Billing demand shall be the larger of the maximum demand of the present month or the month in which the present RELC billing demand was set.
- Energy Charge:** 20.95 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 100 kilowatt hours per month per kilovolt-ampere of billing demand.
13.68 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption.
- Minimum Bill:** The demand charge.
- Availability:** This rate shall be applicable to all non-domestic services where billing demand equals or exceeds 100 kVa.

STREET LIGHTING

\$46,733 per year.

Availability:

This street lighting charge shall be payable by the Municipality of Lunenburg and shall cover provision, 4,000 hour per year operation and maintenance of a 257 fixture street light system.

YARD LIGHTING

\$131.26 per year.

Availability:

This rate shall apply to the provision, operation, and maintenance of individual lighting units serving customers' premises, and the Commission may, at its option, require the customer to agree to a minimum term of service for one year. Service shall consist of dusk-to-dawn operation; approximately 4,000 hours per year.

CABLE TV POWER PACKS

Service Charge: \$4.82 per connected unit per month

Energy Charge: \$16.70 per kilowatt hour

Availability: This classification applies to cable TV power packs, where the consumption is unmetered.

The level of consumption for billing purposes shall be as agreed to by the Utility and the customer, based on

- Documentation about electricity consumption of the unmetered load or,
- At the option of the Utility, periodic monitoring of actual consumption.

DOMESTIC SERVICE TIME OF DAY RATE (OPTIONAL)

Base Charge: \$21.40 per month

Energy Charge:

December, January and February

7:00 am to 1:00 pm	36.20 cents per kilowatt hour
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	18.10 cents per kilowatt hour
4:00 pm to 10:00 pm	36.20 cents per kilowatt hour
10:00 pm to 7:00 am	10.91 cents per kilowatt hour

The above rates apply weekdays (Monday through Friday inclusive), excluding statutory holidays. For Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, all consumption will be billed at the rate of 10.91 cents per kWh.

March to November

7:00 am to 10:00 pm	18.10 cents per kilowatt hour
10:00 pm to 7:00 am	10.91 cents per kilowatt hour

The above rates apply weekdays (Monday through Friday inclusive), excluding statutory holidays. For Saturdays, Sundays, and statutory holidays, all consumption will be billed at the rate of 10.91¢ per kWh.

**Minimum
Monthly
Charge:**

The minimum monthly charge shall be \$21.40.

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.

**2023 General Rate
Application
Deferred Revenue
Rider:**

0.6994 cents per kilowatt hour for service from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026