

Electricity Mandate – Renewable to Retail

What is the Renewable to Retail (“RtR”) Application being considered by the Board?

Nova Scotia Power Inc. (“NSPI”) was required under the legislation to develop the tariffs, procedures and standards of conduct necessary to facilitate the purchase of renewable low impact electricity in Nova Scotia. NSPI was required to consult with interested stakeholders in the development process.

Who does this filing impact?

This filing and the resulting market may affect all Nova Scotia ratepayers, as it has the potential to provide customers alternatives to their current electricity provider by facilitating a market to other suppliers of renewable electricity.

What does the Board have to decide?

The Board, at a high level, has two tasks:

1. To set terms and conditions a new supplier must abide by in order to hold a licence.
2. To approve any NSPI tariffs, procedures or standards of conduct required to facilitate this market and NSPI’s role in it.

How will this new market proceed?

Consultations began with stakeholders in the spring of 2014. Stakeholders will now participate in a formal proceeding, with a hearing set for the week of January 18, 2016. Through this proceeding, the Board will decide on any unresolved issues and approve tariffs and other rules where necessary.

Once the Board issues its decision, potential retailers may apply to the Board, under the requirements of the Board Regulations and Code of Conduct, for approval of a licence to sell renewable electricity.

What does a licence provide?

Upon approval of a licence a retailer will be permitted to generate and or sell renewable electricity in Nova Scotia as an alternative electricity provider.

Will the RtR process result in a rate increase?

The legislation states that customers of NSPI are not to be negatively affected by the activities of this new market. There will be no rate impact.

What are the rates under an alternative power supplier?

These entities are not public utilities, so the rates offered by new suppliers under the RtR are not regulated. Currently, the Board does not know what business models or rates the potential licensees may offer until they make an application, in the future, for a licence.

Where do I get more information?

Documents in this proceeding are publicly available through the “Cases and Evidence” section of the Board’s website. The case or “Matter ID” number is M06214.