



July 10, 2014

Mr. Peter Gurnham, Chair
Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
3rd Floor, Summit Place
1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3P6

Dear Mr. Gurnham:

As per your conversations with the Minister of Energy Andrew Younger, I am writing to reaffirm the agreement that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board will immediately begin the review process of investigating the state of preparedness and response of Nova Scotia Power to the recent storm event, post-tropical storm Arthur. A significant number of families and businesses throughout Nova Scotia have been adversely impacted by the continued loss of electricity service. The enormity and severity of service outages warrants a timely investigation and response.

I further request that the scope of the investigation include, but not limited to the following: storm preparedness, staffing levels, vegetation management, inbound and outbound communications, and the state of transmission and distribution infrastructure. The board should retain advice and expertise it deems appropriate to conduct the expedited investigation. I also request that the process allow the public to provide comment on the performance of the electrical utility and any performance report produced either by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board or Nova Scotia Power.

Given the early nature of the storm season, I appreciate your agreement to undertake this in-depth review within a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia

Copy to: Honourable Andrew Younger, Minister of Energy