

June 20, 2025

By Email

Dear Participants M11858:

Community Solar Garden Capital Work Order Applications (M12306 - Town of Antigonish; M12307 - Town of Mahone Bay; M12308 - Town of Berwick)

In its Decision dated December 18, 2024 (Matter M11858) 2024 NSUARB 209, the Board directed that the above municipal electric utilities apply by June 1, 2025, under s. 35 of the *Public Utilities Act*, for approval of the capital costs related to the community solar gardens which they previously constructed. The applications were filed on May 30, 2025.

All three applications expect significant grant funding from the federal and provincial governments. The balance of the capital costs (net of grant funding) is proposed to be recovered from ratepayers through the Town utility's revenue requirement, beginning in the next general rate application. The Towns seek approval of their respective Capital Work Order applications for capital costs as follows:

- Town of Antigonish - \$8,200,000, including about \$4,200,000 in expected grant funding and other recoveries. The remainder of about \$4,000,000 to be recovered from ratepayers;
- Town of Mahone Bay – \$6,400,000, including about \$4,000,000 in expected grant funding. The remainder of about \$2,400,000 to be recovered from ratepayers; and
- Town of Berwick - \$15,050,000, including about \$7,800,000 in expected grant funding. The remainder of about \$7,250,000 to be recovered from ratepayers

The Board panel assigned to these separate applications is comprised of Stephen T. McGrath, K.C., Chair, Roland A. Deveau, K.C., Vice Chair, and Richard J. Melanson, LL.B., Member.

As a participant in Matter M11858, the Board is advising you of these applications, but the Board intends to consider these matters as it normally would consider most applications for capital projects, through a paper hearing process.

However, the Board will accept letters of comment from the public and submissions from the participants in the prior Matter M11858, as described in the timeline in the enclosed Notice of Paper Hearing. The Board directs that the Notice will be advertised by posting it on the Board website under Notices of Hearing and on the Board's social media accounts, and by

the Towns on their websites and social media accounts. The Notice of Paper Hearing will also be sent to the list of those interested in electricity matters.

Yours truly,

Crystal Henwood

Crystal Henwood
Clerk of the Board

c. William Mahody, K.C., Board Counsel

