Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation – Marshdale
Community Liaison Council
June 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes
6:30 pm, In-Person Format, MOPC Boardroom

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

The meeting was called to order.

Attendance:

- Steve Rankin
- Aaron Long
- Vanessa Noujaim
- Erik Balodis
- Andrea Cameron
- David Parker

2. Review of Last Meeting's Minutes

The committee reviewed the previous meeting minutes.

- Meeting attendance and participation were discussed, including expectations for maintaining a respectful and productive meeting environment.
- Recent changes to committee membership were acknowledged.
- Clarification was requested to ensure technical information recorded in the previous meeting minutes accurately reflected the discussion.
- The importance of transparency and appropriate conflict of interest practices in future discussions related to community benefits was reiterated.
- A suggestion was made to include dedicated time on future agendas for an open roundtable discussion to provide committee members with an opportunity to raise questions and concerns.

Action:

- The Chair to incorporate time for an open discussion or roundtable during future meetings.
- Future meeting minutes will continue to be circulated to committee members as draft for review and comment prior to publication.

3. Review of Last Meeting's Action Items

a. IESO Nova Scotia's reply to the IAAC Summary of Issues

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update regarding its response to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the federal assessment process.

- IESO Nova Scotia explained that IAAC determined a Federal impact assessment is not required for the project.

- IESO Nova Scotia noted the reply to the IAAC Summary of Issues and the IAAC decision were distributed via email to CLC members.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia to continue sharing relevant information regarding project approvals and regulatory processes as updates become available.

b. Low water system design

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on the deferred action item regarding detailed information on low water system design options.

- Members requested additional information regarding potential dry cooling technologies and the range of technology options that may be considered through the procurement process.
- IESO Nova Scotia explained that detailed design information cannot be shared until a successful proponent has been selected, as the final technology configuration will depend on the proposal submitted through the competitive procurement process.
- Concerns were raised regarding transparency and the ability for the committee and community to understand potential technology options prior to final selection.
- It was noted that multiple technology configurations could satisfy the procurement requirements, making it premature to identify a specific design prior to proponent selection.
- IESO Nova Scotia stated that all proposed technologies must comply with applicable environmental legislation, permitting requirements, and provincial emissions and noise standards.
- An overview of the procurement approach was provided, including how the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) informed the decision to procure fast-acting generation and the factors considered in developing the procurement strategy.

Action:

- Deferred action item of providing detailed information on low water system design to remain on future meeting agendas until completed, with additional information becoming available upon selecting a proponent.

c. Review of provincial CLC guidelines

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on its review of the provincial Community Liaison Committee guidelines and to continue to address concerns related to conflicts of interest and community inclusion.

- It was iterated that the committee was established to include representation from a range of community perspectives, including local residents, businesses, and community organizations.
- The committee discussed the importance of maintaining transparency in committee representation and addressing potential conflicts of interest through open disclosure.
- It was noted that transparency remains an important principle in supporting effective committee participation and community confidence

Action:

- None

d. Assessment of Road Safety and Infrastructure Improvements

IESO Nova Scotia stated that the (i) review of proposed access routes, (ii) consideration of mechanisms to specify and enforce approved transportation routes, and (iii) assessment of required road safety and infrastructure improvements remain deferred while project planning and procurement activities continue.

- IESO Nova Scotia confirmed that transportation requirements and considerations are among several authorizations required of the future proponent and arereflected in the tolling agreement to be held between IESO Nova Scotia and the future proponent.
- Specific road safety concerns were identified regarding the intersection of Middle River Branch Road and Highway 289; the intersection of Marshdale Road and White Hill Road; and E. Fraser Road at Marshdale Road; including roadway geometry, sightlines, and the ability to safely accommodate project-related truck traffic.
- Concerns were also raised regarding existing heavy vehicle traffic in the area and the potential for increased traffic during construction and fuel deliveries.

Action:

- Deferred transportation-related action items will remain on future meeting agendas until completed.
- Committee members to continue sharing any feedback on road safety and infrastructure improvements.

e. Deferred action items

- Preparation of a public summary of RFP feedback, including generalized IESO Nova Scotia responses and a summary of key RFP changes and rationale, remains deferred pending finalization of the procurement documents.
- The action item to provide detailed information on dry low emissions system design options and associated costs remains deferred until a successful proponent has been selected and the technology has been finalized.
- The review of proposed access routes, consideration of mechanisms to specify and enforce approved transportation routes, and assessment of required road safety and infrastructure improvements remain in progress and will continue to be advanced as project planning and procurement activities progress.

It was noted that committee feedback will continue to inform these workstreams, and deferred items will remain on future meeting agendas until completed.

4. Project Overview & Update

a. Indigenous engagement update

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on Indigenous engagement activities.

- An update was provided on the ongoing Sipekne'katik Governance Initiative consultation process.
- IESO Nova Scotia confirmed that Indigenous engagement remains an important component of project planning and development.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia to continue providing updates on Indigenous engagement activities as appropriate.

b. Background document distribution

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on the project background document, which includes general project information and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. The document was developed to support ongoing information sharing with committee members and the broader community.

- Committee members were invited to provide feedback on the document; no concerns were raised at the meeting and the document was well-received by the committee.
- It was noted that distribution will primarily occur electronically, with a limited number of printed copies available upon request. Committee members agreed that this approach appropriately balances accessibility and waste.
- Members discussed anticipated project milestones, including procurement timelines and the earliest potential construction schedule.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia to provide the finalized, professionally formatted version of the background document in both print and electronic formats.

c. Feedback from members of community and responses

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on its initiative to share responses to community correspondence with the Community Liaison Committee to support transparency and ongoing information sharing.

- Responses to recent community correspondence circulated in advance of the meeting were discussed, including questions from a community member and correspondence received from the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE).
- It was noted that the responses addressed a range of environmental and project-related questions and reflected considerations incorporated into project planning, including local wells and Indigenous consultation.
- Committee members supported continuing this approach to keep the committee informed of community feedback and IESO Nova Scotia responses.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia to continue circulating responses of significant community correspondence and project-related inquiries to the Community Liaison Committee, where appropriate.

5. Community Feedback and Questions

a. Community communications

Members discussed third-party public communications related to the project and the importance of providing accurate, accessible information to the community.

- Questions were raised regarding public misinformation and opportunities to strengthen project communications.
- IESO Nova Scotia acknowledged the importance of adapting project materials for a range of communication channels.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia to continue reviewing opportunities to strengthen public communications as the project progresses.

b. Community and Property Impacts

Members discussed potential impacts of the project on neighbouring properties and surrounding residents.

- Concerns were raised regarding potential visual impacts and perceived effects on nearby property values.
- IESO Nova Scotia acknowledged these concerns and confirmed minimal impact on property values, which will continue to be considered as part of the project's multi-dimensional evaluation process.
- Discussion also included the factors considered in the site selection process, including the location of existing transmission and natural gas infrastructure.

Action:

- No action items

c. Project Scope and Natural Gas Supply

Questions were raised regarding the proposed facilities, natural gas supply, and project schedule.

- Discussion included project construction timelines, anticipated procurement milestones, and factors influencing facility sizing through the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).
- Information was also provided regarding the reliability of the regional natural gas supply and the role of the proposed facilities in serving Nova Scotia's electricity system.

Action:

- No action items

d. Community Liaison Committee role

Members discussed the ongoing role of the Community Liaison Committee throughout project development.

- Questions were raised regarding the committee's role in influencing project decisions.
- Discussion highlighted opportunities for committee input on emergency response planning, communications with neighbouring residents, transportation planning, and community benefits.
- It was noted that the committee will continue to serve as a forum for information sharing and community feedback throughout project development and operation.

Action:

- No action items

e. Community benefits

Members continued discussions regarding community benefit funding.

- IESO Nova Scotia confirmed that proponents will be required to include community benefit funding within their proposals.
- Questions were raised regarding the future governance, administration, and distribution of community benefit funding.
- Members emphasized the importance of establishing a transparent process for allocating community benefit funding.

Action:

- No action items

6. Next Meeting Planning

- It was agreed that the committee will pause meetings over the summer, with project updates and other relevant information to be shared by email as available.
- Discussion highlighted the importance of maintaining committee engagement as the project progresses and ensuring members continue to receive timely information.
- Subject to availability, the next meeting will be held at the Eureka Fire Hall.

Proposed Date: September 2026 (to be confirmed)

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia to continue providing project updates to committee members during the summer recess.

- IESO Nova Scotia to confirm the date, time, and location of the next Community Liaison Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.