Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation – Salt Springs
Community Liaison Council
June 30, 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
- Jeanne Cruikshank
- Holly Irons
- Eric Sibille
- Cynthia Parks
- Jim Roycroft

IESO Nova Scotia noted the addition of an open roundtable discussion to the agenda, which will be included in future meetings to provide committee members with an opportunity for open discussion and questions.

2. Review of Last Meeting's Minutes

The committee reviewed the previous meeting minutes.

- A minor administrative correction was made to accurately reflect meeting attendance.

Action:

- 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. Arrange guest presentation on Integrated Resource Planning

The committee discussed the opportunity to invite a guest speaker to provide a more detailed overview of the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process.

- Committee members expressed interest in a future presentation and discussion focused on the IRP.
- It was noted that the summer months present scheduling challenges, and that the discussion would be better suited for the fall meeting schedule.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia will revisit arrangements for an IRP guest presentation prior to the committee reconvening in the Fall.

b. Low water system design

IESO Nova Scotia discussed the deferred action item regarding information on dry low emission / dry low-water technology.

- IESO Nova Scotia advised that this item remains dependent on the outcome of the procurement process, as the successful proponent will determine the final technology solution. Since the final technology has not yet been selected, it is not possible to provide project-specific information on water use, emissions controls, or other design details at this time.
- It was noted that the procurement establishes performance requirements and environmental parameters, while allowing proponents flexibility to propose technologies that meet those requirements.
- Committee members were also advised that baseline well inspections and testing will be undertaken prior to construction to document existing well conditions, as required under the procurement process.
- Committee members asked questions regarding the proposed exhaust stacks and associated air emissions.
- IESO Nova Scotia noted that, regardless of the technology selected, the successful proponent will be required to comply with all applicable environmental legislation and regulatory requirements governing air emissions.
- In the interim, committee members were encouraged to refer to the Environmental Assessment documentation for information on anticipated air emissions.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia will provide an update and share the requested information once the successful proponent and proposed technology have been confirmed.

c. Emergency response planning

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on emergency response planning requirements associated with the procurement.

- IESO Nova Scotia advised that the Request for Proposals (RFP) requires each successful project to provide an annual contribution of $100,000, indexed to inflation, to the local fire department to support emergency preparedness and response capacity.
- Committee members discussed emergency response planning, including the respective roles of local volunteer fire departments, specialized emergency response personnel, and other agencies in the event of an incident.
- Questions were asked regarding incident detection and the safe transportation of fuel to the facility.
- IESO Nova Scotia noted that successful proponents will be required to implement appropriate monitoring systems and comply with applicable safety and emergency response requirements.
- It was noted that fuel transportation risks are subject to industry standards, regulatory oversight, and insurance requirements intended to reduce the likelihood and impact of incidents.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia will engage with relevant industry operators and emergency response partners to further develop emergency response protocols and coordination procedures.

d. Construction timeline updates

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update regarding inaccurate information from external parties opposed to the projects (both Salt Springs and Marshdale sites) related to project timelines.

- IESO Nova Scotia advised that no examples of inaccurate publications or materials had been received from committee members.
- In response to a question regarding the anticipated construction schedule, IESO Nova Scotia explained that construction timelines will ultimately depend on the successful proponents' facility design, as well as factors like equipment availability and broader supply chain considerations.
- IESO Nova Scotia confirmed that construction is not anticipated to begin in 2026, as was implied by the external parties.

Action:

- Committee members to continue sharing any inaccurate third-party information related to the proposed projects with IESO Nova Scotia for review and clarification, as appropriate.

e. Buffer for baseline well studies

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on the approach for baseline well studies.

- No recommendations regarding the proposed buffer have been received from committee members.
- In response to a question regarding baseline well testing, IESO Nova Scotia confirmed that baseline well testing remains a requirement of the procurement process and will be undertaken by the successful proponent prior to the commencement of construction.

Action:

- Committee members are encouraged to continue providing recommendations regarding the proposed buffer for baseline well studies for IESO Nova Scotia' consideration.

f. Public federal review decisions

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 noted the reply to the IAAC Summary of Issues and the IAAC decision were distributed via email to CLC members.
- IESO Nova Scotia explained that IAAC determined a Federal impact assessment is not required for the project.

- The committee acknowledged the update and no further discussion was raised.

Action:

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

g. Sharing information and updates via email communications

IESO Nova Scotia shared examples of recent responses to questions received through the community inbox for the committee's information.

- Committee members welcomed the inclusion of recent community correspondence and expressed interest in continuing to receive similar updates at future meetings.
- It was noted that common questions and responses will continue to inform the project's Project Background and Frequently Asked Questions (Q&A) documents, which will be updated and refreshed on the project website as appropriate.

Action:

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

h. Potential policy changes to emissions standards

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on potential policy changes to emissions standards.

- Committee members had previously been invited to share any available documentation related to potential changes to emissions standards. No materials were received.
- IESO Nova Scotia noted that Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change has introduced more stringent air emissions requirements, with which the facility will be required to comply.

Action:

- None.

i. Meeting materials and minutes distribution

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update regarding the distribution of meeting materials and minutes.

- IESO Nova Scotia confirmed that finalized meeting minutes are available on the project website following committee review.
- IESO Nova Scotia committed to providing meeting materials with sufficient advance notice to allow committee members adequate time for review prior to each meeting. Printed copies will also continue to be mailed in advance to members who have requested them.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia will continue to distribute meeting materials in advance of future meetings and provide printed copies to committee members upon request.

j. Deferred action items

The following action items remain outstanding and will be carried forward to future meetings:

- Arrange guest presentation on Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process.
- Share information on dry low water / dry low emissions technology, once available. 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.
- Consider the development of clearer, public-facing materials on revised water quantity / emissions

It was noted that committee feedback will continue to inform these initiatives, and the outstanding action items will remain on future meeting agendas until they have been addressed.

4. Project Overview & Update

a. Indigenous engagement update

IESO Nova Scotia provided an update on the consultation process with Sipekne'katik governance Initiative.

- The committee was advised that Sipekne'katik First Nation has established an independent consultation unit through which proponents engage in consultation with the community.
- IESO Nova Scotia indicated that this consultation process operates independently of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs' consultation process.

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. It was well received and no content changes were suggested.
- It was agreed upon that distribution will occur electronically, with a limited number of printed copies available upon request.

Action:

- IESO Nova Scotia to provide the finalized, professionally formatted version of the background document.

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 received from a community member as well as 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 engagement.
- 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 CLC, where appropriate.

5. Roundtable Discussion

The Chair invited committee members to raise additional questions and discuss topics of interest.

a. Electricity reliability and battery storage

Committee members discussed electricity system reliability during power outages and extreme weather events.

- It was noted that while generation resources and battery storage contribute to overall system reliability, localized outages caused by damage to transmission or distribution infrastructure cannot be solely addressed by additional generation resources.
- Questions were asked regarding the role of battery energy storage in Nova Scotia's electricity system.
- IESO Nova Scotia agreed that battery storage is an important consideration in the IRP and that a competitive procurement for additional battery storage is planned for later this year.
- It was also noted that the IRP evaluates the diminishing system benefits of additional technologies as they are deployed to determine the most cost-effective resource mix.
- Committee members discussed emerging battery technologies, including long-duration iron oxide batteries, and whether these technologies had been considered through the IRP process.
- IESO Nova Scotia clarified that the IRP evaluates a broad range of technologies and scenarios to determine the most appropriate resource mix for Nova Scotia.

b. Future resource planning

Committee members discussed the relationship between planned wind generation, fast-acting generation, and the IRP process.

- IESO Nova Scotia explained that fast-acting generation and wind generation serve different functions within the electricity system, with fast-acting generation providing electricity when renewable resources are unable to meet demand.
- It was noted that the current procurement and its outcomes will continue to inform the ongoing IRP process, which evaluates future electricity needs based on reliability, affordability, and environmental objectives.
- Committee members were also reminded that the latest IRP materials are available on the IESO Nova Scotia website.

c. Natural Gas, Backup Fuel and Diesel Storage

Committee members discussed the role of natural gas and diesel as a backup fuel.

- IESO Nova Scotia explained that backup fuel remains necessary to support system reliability in all scenarios and that large-scale on-site natural gas storage is not currently considered practical due to technical and economic constraints.
- Questions were also asked regarding the proposed diesel storage capacity and potential environmental risks associated with fuel storage.
- IESO Nova Scotia clarified that the proposed storage capacity represents the maximum design capacity and does not necessarily mean that tanks would remain full at all times.
- It was also noted that fuel storage systems are subject to applicable engineering standards, monitoring requirements, regulatory oversight, and environmental protection measures.
- IESO Nova Scotia explained that successful proponents would be responsible for responding to and remediating any fuel releases in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

d. Coal phase-out

Committee members discussed the planned phase-out of coal-fired generation and the differences between existing coal facilities and the proposed fast-acting generation resources.

- IESO Nova Scotia stated that coal-fired electricity generation must be phased out by 2030, although decisions regarding the operation of existing generating units remain the responsibility of Nova Scotia Power during the transition period.

e. Project operations and employment

Committee members discussed anticipated staffing levels for the proposed facilities.

- IESO Nova Scotia noted that staffing requirements, shift schedules, and operational practices will ultimately be determined by the successful proponent, although facilities must be capable of responding rapidly to electricity system needs.

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.

- In the interim, IESO Nova Scotia will share any new information and updates through email.
- Subject to availability, the next meeting will be held at the West River 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 8:40 pm.