

November 30, 2021

## **Re: Renewal of the Water Approval for the Sissiboo Hydro System**

Nova Scotia Power (NS Power) is beginning the process of renewing operating approvals for the Sissiboo hydro system. As part of this process we would like to share the following information about the upcoming relicensing process.

Nova Scotia Power generates 95% of Nova Scotia's electricity and serves about 507,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers across the province. As part of the energy mix, NS Power operates 32 generating stations on 16 hydroelectric (hydro) systems in Nova Scotia, providing almost 10% of the province's clean electricity.

Each hydro system is operated in accordance with a Water Approval for Storage/Withdrawal of Water under the Nova Scotia Environment Act, administered by Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change and renewed every ten years.

### **Relicensing Process**

In preparing to relicense a system, NS Power gathers information on the hydro system as well as Mi'kmaw cultural heritage and resources and conducts studies on water quality, fish and fish habitat and species of conservation concern. It is important that regulators, community members and groups, Mi'kmaw communities and organizations, the general public and any other user of the watershed are able to participate in the relicensing process. It is also important to have a means to provide valuable information toward the ongoing operation of the system. As part of this process communities and other users of the watershed are invited to provide feedback. All of the information and feedback is combined into a report and provided to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change as part of the relicensing application. NS Power is not proposing any changes to the current infrastructure or operation of the Sissiboo Hydro System as part of the relicensing process.

### **Sissiboo Hydro System**

The Sissiboo Hydro System is located in Digby County, in the southwestern part of the Nova Scotia. Sissiboo Hydro drains into the Sissiboo River, which passes through the village of Weymouth and empties into St. Marys Bay.

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The Sissiboo Hydro system has a drainage area of 621.6 km<sup>2</sup> and consists of three generating stations along a thirty-two kilometer stretch of the Sissiboo River. The main reservoir is Fourth Lake, which collects all run-in from the upper part of the system. Water flows through the Fourth Lake generating station and into Sissiboo Grand Lake Reservoir, where the outflowing Sissiboo River joins the Wallace Branch of the Sissiboo River. The combined flow enters the Sissiboo Falls flowage and generating station, and on to the Weymouth Falls flowage and generating station, where it makes its way out of the river mouth and into St. Marys Bay. The Sissiboo Hydro System was constructed from 1958 to 1962; there was a significant redevelopment in 1983 when the Fourth Lake generating station was installed.

This information can also be found online at [nspower.ca/cleanandgreen/environmental-initiatives/hydro-facilities-relicensing](https://nspower.ca/cleanandgreen/environmental-initiatives/hydro-facilities-relicensing). If you would like to discuss further, have any questions or would like to provide any information on the above systems, we would be happy to talk with you. Please feel free to reach out to [hydrorelicensing@nspower.ca](mailto:hydrorelicensing@nspower.ca) at any time.

Yours truly,



Stephanie MacDonal  
Hydro Relicensing Project Manager