



Town of Lockeport
26 North Street
Lockeport, NS B0T 1L0

April 30, 2026

The Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 726
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T3

Re: Request for Five-Year Freeze on Power Rates and Exploration of Public Ownership of Nova Scotia Power

Dear Premier Houston,

On behalf of the Town of Lockeport, I am writing to express our concerns regarding residential power rates in Nova Scotia and the growing impact they are having on our residents and small community.

We have reviewed recent correspondence from other municipal units, including the County of Antigonish, Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Municipality of Barrington, and we wish to echo the concerns outlined in those letters.

While we recognize that the Nova Scotia Energy Board has approved Nova Scotia Power's recent General Rate Application for 2026–2027, it remains important for local leaders to advocate on behalf of residents who continue to face increasing financial pressures.

In Lockeport, the combination of rising electricity costs and broader affordability pressures is becoming increasingly difficult for residents to manage. **More than 60% of our residents are seniors**, many of whom are living on fixed incomes, leaving little flexibility to absorb continued increases. As a result, rising electricity rates are not just inconvenient—they directly impact the ability of residents to remain in their homes and maintain their quality of life. Without meaningful intervention, these pressures will continue to strain households and challenge the long-term sustainability of communities like ours, where supporting residents to age in place is a key part of our community fabric.

We are particularly concerned that residential customers continue to see higher percentage increases compared to some other customer classes. This raises significant questions about fairness and equity, as it suggests households may be carrying a disproportionate share of operating and capital costs.

Additionally, the recent cybersecurity incident involving Nova Scotia Power and the ongoing impacts that followed have further eroded public confidence. Continued challenges related to billing, communication, and overall system reliability have left many residents frustrated. Concerns are not limited to cost alone, but extend to transparency, accountability, and trust in the system.

Considering these concerns, we respectfully ask that you advocate for the following on behalf of Nova Scotians:

- Consideration of a five-year freeze on residential power rates to help protect residents from further financial strain.
- A thorough exploration of returning Nova Scotia Power to public ownership, ensuring that the interests of residents are prioritized over corporate profits.

We acknowledge that operating and capital costs have increased due to inflation, tariffs, and other factors. However, we strongly encourage the Province and regulatory bodies to explore options that ensure costs are distributed more fairly, without placing an undue burden on residential ratepayers.

Communities like Lockeport rely on affordable, dependable, and equitable energy to remain sustainable. It is critical that meaningful steps are taken to protect residents and rebuild confidence in the system.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Derek Amalfa
Mayor
Town of Lockeport

cc:

Nova Scotia Energy Board
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
All Municipal Units in Nova Scotia
Hon. Nolan Young, MLA – Shelburne

My Town . . .

Lockeport – where we partner to build a prosperous future with services that provide value and a quality of life in which we take pride.