



MEDIA RELEASE

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Ecology Action Centre Urges Government to Adopt Recommendation for Independent Energy Efficiency Agency Quickly

Halifax – Today a stakeholder consultation process led by Dalhousie University presented a recommendation to create a new independent administrator for electric energy efficiency programs in Nova Scotia. If adopted, the recommendation would see Nova Scotia breaking new ground in energy efficiency policy in Canada by learning from best-practices elsewhere.

After stakeholders expressed concerns with a Nova Scotia Power administered energy efficiency program due to potential “conflicts of interest” and competing priorities, the government created a separate process to consider other forms of administration. For the Utility and Review Board to regulate another entity that will deliver energy efficiency programs the government will have to introduce legislation.

Long-term projections for electric demand growth in Nova Scotia showed that unless Nova Scotia aggressively invests in programs to reduce energy demand, Nova Scotia Power will build a 400 MW coal-fired power plant that will cost the province \$1 billion more over the long-run.

With stakeholders, Dalhousie University explored the risks and benefits of utility, government, and third-party forms of administration in New Brunswick, Oregon, Vermont and New England.

The recommendation presented is to create a “performance-based independent efficiency agency” that will be overseen by the Utility and Review Board. The new entity will implement strategies to save megawatt hours of energy so Nova Scotia Power doesn’t need to produce megawatt hours with fossil fuels.

“The cheapest power plant is the one we don’t have to build. By improving energy efficiency, we can save a power plant worth of energy at 1/3rd the cost of a regular power plant. Creating an independent and performance-based organization is critical for efficiency programs to be effective,” said Brendan Haley, EAC Energy Coordinator. The Ecology Action Centre says the new efficiency deliverer should be rewarded based on its performance by creating incentives for goals to not only be met, but exceeded.

The EAC is calling on the government to move quickly to create the new organization and to introduce the legislation required for its existence. The provincial legislature is sitting on April 24th and should move quickly to introduce the required legislation.

“Delay could cost this province \$1 billion dollars and increase our greenhouse gas emissions. The government needs to move quickly,” said Mr. Haley.