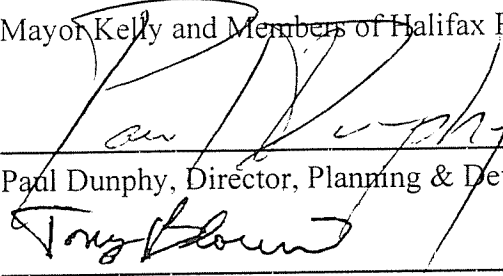
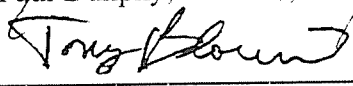


Halifax Regional Council  
December 10, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

  
Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning & Development

  
Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Policy

DATE: November 29, 2002

SUBJECT: NS Power, 4<sup>th</sup> Generator at Tufts Cove

## INFORMATION REPORT

### ORIGIN

Registration submitted to NS Department of Environment & Labour by NS Power, for a 4<sup>th</sup> generating unit at the Tufts Cove generating station, Dartmouth - referred to HRM for comment by NSDEL.

### BACKGROUND

Projects subject to provincial environmental assessment must be registered with NSDEL and made available for comment.

### DISCUSSION

Staff have reviewed the registration document, and submitted comments to NSDEL (attached). In general, staff view this undertaking by NS Power as a positive step from an environmental point of view, as it will replace some oil-fired generating capacity with cleaner natural gas-fired capacity. There are no anticipated significant negative impacts resulting from the proposed undertaking.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Comments submitted by HRM to NSDEL, November 27, 2002.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Policy

**Attachment - Comments submitted by HRM to NSDEL**

DATE: November 27, 2002

TO: Helen MacPhail, NSDEL (VIA E-Mail)

**Subject:** Nova Scotia Power, Registration of 4<sup>th</sup> Generating Unit, Tufts Cove

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Staff of HRM have reviewed the registration document provided, and offer the following comments:

**Planning & Development Services:**

There appear to be no significant issues from a land use planning perspective.

According to the report, the contribution of Ground Level Concentrations for Sulphur Dioxide, Unburned Hydrocarbons and Carbon Monoxide emissions from the proposed Combustion Turbine will be negligible. The report also indicates that the unit will result in significant reductions in Sulphur Dioxide, Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide emissions as the unit serves as a replacement for the other less efficient units until future electrical demands increase. This will have a positive environmental effect on the surrounding community and the region. The extent and anticipated time frame to which these reductions will be realized however should be clarified. It would also be highly beneficial if NSP could be committed to the use of natural gas to fuel all units as a condition of approval for the proposed Combustion Turbine. Contributions to provincial Green House Gas reductions resulting from this undertaking should be quantified.

The report indicates that potential Ground-level concentrations of Nitrogen Oxides are well within CCME guidelines for stationary Combustion Turbines and that concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide are well below the regulatory levels established under the NS Air Quality Regulations.

In terms of noise, the report indicates that noise levels will be kept within 1 dBA of existing levels using insulation, enclosing key components with buildings, and constructing deflector walls. With the proposed treatment devices noise levels will not exceed 58.7 decibels at the highest noise level examined under this study. This is within the within acceptable limits of 60 decibels.

The report indicates that there is a possibility for the disturbance of soils that have been contaminated with hydrocarbons and metals during the construction phase of the project. Given the long history of industrial use at this site dating back to 1790 for a variety of uses such as a shipping wharves, a rail mill and tannery, there is some concern over the limited information on what specific environmental contaminants might be encountered. These concerns however will be addressed under the practices, regulations and guidelines for site remediation to which the proponent is committed to follow.

The Development Officer for the Eastern Region indicates that the I-2 (General Industrial) Zone for this location permits industrial enterprises which are not obnoxious or hazardous. HRM may issue a Development Permit for the project if the proponent is able to confirm that the project meets all of the Department of Environment and Labour regulations for an Operating permit.

### **Environmental Services:**

It is our understanding that there are HRM sanitary and storm sewers which service this site and that a private on-site wastewater facility is operated for process wastewater, miscellaneous wastewater and sanitary wastewater generated by the existing facility. Additionally, effluent from the wastewater facility may discharge to the HRM system prior to discharge to the harbour. As such, existing and future wastewater streams should be evaluated for compliance with HRM's Wastewater Discharge By-Law W-101.

All existing wastewater sources and characteristics as well as those that may be created by the proposed construction and operation of the fourth generating unit should be identified and characterised for both qualitative and quantitative parameters if they impact or are received by HRM systems, including:

- Chemical and physical treatment of boiler feedwaters including both freshwater and condensate return waters, disposal and volumes
- Boiler blow down frequency, chemical characteristics and volumes
- Management of boiler cleaning solutions and solids removal and disposal practises
- Water treatment sludge and backwash discharges for both chemical characteristics and volumes
- Sludge disposal practises for air emission controls
- Miscellaneous wastewaters including identified fuel oil tank water decants, sanitary wastewaters, cooling tower blowdowns ( if any) compressed air system blowdowns and any other waste stream that may be discharged to HRM storm or sanitary sewer.

Parameters of concern which may be found at this site currently include SS, nondegradable organics, BOD, oil, acids, alkalynes, phosphate, Cr as hexavalent chromium, Fe, Cu, Bo and temperature. Additionally, all wastewater including storm water run off that may be generated during the proposed construction phase will be required to meet HRM By-Law W-101 for any discharge to HRM systems.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

There appear to be no areas where the proposed project would negatively impact on future Parkland and/or Recreational Facility Development in the Tufts Cove area. Future Recreation Plans may include lands to the north of the existing generators. The new infrastructure as proposed would be located to the south of the existing generators and will not be detrimental to any future recreational opportunities currently under consideration.