

DISCLAIMER

This Call for Participation (“CFP”) is issued for informational purposes and may be amended from time to time. Participants are responsible for reviewing [Dalhousie Bids and Tenders](#) for the most current version of this document, as well as any updates, clarifications, or addenda issued in connection with this CFP. The [Dalhousie Bids and Tenders](#) shall be the authoritative source for all CFP-related information. Any updates or modifications to the CFP will be posted on the website, and it is the responsibility of participants to check the website periodically to ensure they are relying on the most current information available. Dalhousie University shall not be responsible for any misunderstanding or reliance on outdated information if participants fail to review posted updates or addenda.



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

**Nova Scotia Subsurface Energy R&D
Investment Program (SERDIP)**

CFP # 21171325

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PART 1 – INVITATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1.1 Invitation to Proponents

1.1.1 Nova Scotia R&D Investment Program

The Subsurface Energy R&D Investment Program (SERDIP or Program) is a provincial initiative designed to understand the potential to explore Nova Scotia's onshore hydrocarbon resources while ensuring environmental stewardship and transparency. The program aims to enhance geological knowledge and assess resource viability and extraction.

The Program will offer financial incentives (Appendix F) to operators to explore Nova Scotia's petroleum potential as part of a controlled research initiative. This work will advance scientific understanding of subsurface geology, new energy potential in geothermal or carbon capture utilization and storage and modern drilling and stimulation technologies applied in the Nova Scotia environment, helping shape future energy policy and economic development.

All phases of the Program must be completed by the end of 2026, with mobilization and drilling activities completed by October 2026. The Province of Nova Scotia (the "Province") recognizes the accelerated nature of this schedule and is committed to expediting its internal review and approval processes wherever reasonably possible. At the same time, the Province and operators will continue to comply with all applicable safety, regulatory, and governance requirements ([Petroleum Resources Act \(Energy\)](#)). Successful proponents from the Call for Participation will enter into a Petroleum Exploration Agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia, giving the proponent the exclusive right to explore for and produce oil and gas from the agreed to lands for a 3-year term (renewable up to twice for a total of 9 years).

1.1.2 Invitation

Dalhousie University (the "University" or "Dalhousie") invites industry participants ("Proponents") to respond to this Call for Participation (CFP). The Program requires Proponents to undertake field and analytical work that contributes meaningful scientific data to the overall research initiative. Participants must share operational, geological, and environmental data with independent research advisors, who will incorporate the findings into a research paper.

Proponents will be expected to generate technical information related to reservoir characteristics, groundwater protection, drilling and stimulation performance, flow behavior, and subsurface monitoring. These data will support geological modeling, technology evaluation, and environmental assessment under Nova Scotia's geological conditions.

The Program includes exploratory drilling and associated flow testing, engineering, and production activities, whereby Proponents submit proposed drilling locations, geological evaluations, and environmental procedures prior to operations, and subsequently assess well performance and demonstrate enhanced recovery techniques.

The successful Proponents will be required to meet the following project timelines:

- May 2026: Selected Proponents to enter into an Exploration Agreement with the Province
- May - June 2026: Due Diligence and Site Selection
- July - October 2026: Mobilization and Drilling
- Throughout the duration of their participation in the Program, selected Proponents will be required to share data with Dalhousie in accordance with the timelines set out in Schedule A of the Data Sharing Agreement (Appendix E)

This CFP will follow a two-step process: (1) submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) to gauge participation in the Program, and (2) a Full Submission from interested parties. While EOIs are encouraged, they are not mandatory. Final Proponent selection will be based on the evaluation criteria outlined in this document (Appendix D) and is subject to approval by the Province.

1.1.3 Proponent Must Be Single Entity (Consortia Permitted with One Lead)

The Proponent must be a single legal entity that, if selected, intends to enter into any required Provincial negotiations and agreements for participation in the Program. Where the response is submitted by a consortium, the submission must identify a single legal entity as the “Lead Proponent,” which shall be responsible for the performance of the obligations set out in this CFP and any resulting agreements. The University and/or the Province may require the Lead Proponent to demonstrate authority to bind consortium members.

1.1.4 Bidding System Registration

All Proponents must have a vendor account or establish a vendor account with Dalhousie University’s electronic bidding system and must be registered as a plan taker for this opportunity. Registration enables the Proponent to download solicitation documents, ask questions, receive addenda notifications, and submit responses electronically. Vendor accounts can be created online through the following link: [Bids and Tenders - Dalhousie](#)

1.2 CFP Contact

All communications must be initiated and conducted through the electronic bidding system: <https://dal.bidsandtenders.ca/>. Dalhousie will not accept communications by any other means unless expressly stated.

1.3 Process and Roles

The University is administering this CFP on behalf of the Province. The University will receive, screen and evaluate submissions based on the evaluation criteria described herein, and will confirm which Proponents are qualified. The Province will identify preferred Proponents and conduct contract negotiations with such Proponents. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each successful Proponent will be required to enter into a data sharing agreement (Appendix E) with

the University to enable the University to complete final reporting and knowledge mobilization activities associated with the Program.

1.4 Call for Participation Timeline

Key Dates:

Call for Participation (CFP)	Feb 27, 2026
EOI Submission Deadline	Mar 11, 2026 – 2:00 PM Atlantic
Question Period	Mar 2, 2026 – Apr 10, 2026
Full Submission Deadline	Apr 15, 2026 – 2:00 PM Atlantic
Identification of Qualified Proponents	Apr 30, 2026

1.5 Data Room

Proponents are invited to access the Nova Scotia Department of Energy Onshore Data Room where access to a comprehensive suite of existing geological, geophysical and technical information to support evaluation of exploration opportunities will be made available. Data is hosted in a GIS, seismic and well workstation platform.

For access to the Onshore Data Room, please contact Natasha MacAdam:
[Natasha.MacAdam@novascotia.ca]

In addition, Proponents are advised that publicly available geological and petroleum systems information for onshore Nova Scotia may be found in Nova Scotia's Onshore Petroleum Atlas and its associated Open File Reports.

The Onshore Petroleum Atlas project was undertaken to quantify the hydrocarbon resource potential of onshore Nova Scotia using available subsurface geological data and established conventional and unconventional resource assessment methodologies. The Atlas and related Open File Reports include a synthesis of regional geology and petroleum systems data intended to enable independent evaluation and reproducibility of interpretations and conclusions.

These materials are publicly accessible and available online at: [Onshore Atlas - Open File Reports | Department of Energy](#)

Proponents may reference or utilize this information in preparing their submissions.

1.6 Submission Instructions

1.6.1 Submission of Responses

Responses must be submitted electronically through the bidding system. Submissions by other methods will not be accepted. Proponents must click “Start Submission” in the system to access required forms, and uploads.

1.6.2 Proposals to Be Submitted on Time

Responses must be finalized and fully uploaded before the Submission Deadlines. The system web clock determines receipt time. Late submissions will not be accepted.

1.6.3 Prescribed Format and Structure

Follow the system’s file size limits and structure. Do not include embedded files or password-protected documents.

1.6.4 Amendment of Responses

Proponents may amend their submissions prior to the applicable deadline, ensuring the amended version is received by the system on time.

PART 2 – EVALUATION AND PROVINCIAL NEGOTIATIONS/AWARD(S)

2.1 Stages of Evaluation

Stage 0 – Expression of Interest (EOI) (Appendix A)

Stage I – Full Participant Submission (Appendix C)

Stage II – Evaluation (Appendix D)

Stage III – Confirmation to Province of Qualified Proponents and Provincial Negotiations/Award(s).

2.2 Stage 0 – EOI (Market Sounding)

The purpose of the EOI is to gauge overall market interest and identify potential proponents able to execute their project within SERDIP timelines. Proponent is to fill out form in Appendix A to indicate their interest in participating in this program by the requested deadline. The EOI is not mandatory but strongly encouraged.

No evaluation is planned for the EOI.

2.3 Stage I – Full Participant Submission

Dalhousie will review Full Submissions for completeness and required forms. Rectification may be permitted within a stated period for minor omissions. Failure to meet mandatory items will result in rejection from further stages. The Proponent Information form can be found in Appendix B and full submission requirements are outlined in detail in Appendix C.

2.4 Stage II – Evaluation

2.4.1 Evaluation Criteria

Dalhousie will evaluate qualified Full Submissions using the criteria set out in Appendix D.

2.5 Stage III – Confirmation of Qualified Proponents and Provincial Negotiations/Award(s)

After evaluations, Dalhousie will submit the evaluation results to the Province. The Province will conduct negotiations and make final award decision(s). Dalhousie may notify other Proponents of their status as appropriate.

2.6 Time Period for Provincial Negotiations

The Province intends to conduct and conclude negotiations within an indicative period communicated to recommended Proponent(s). Proponents should be prepared to satisfy preconditions of Provincial award and to proceed expeditiously. The Province recognizes the accelerated nature of this schedule and is committed to expediting its internal review and approval processes wherever reasonably possible. At the same time, the Province and operators will continue to comply with all applicable safety, regulatory, and governance requirements.

2.7 Failure to Enter into Provincial Agreement

If pre-conditions of Provincial award are not satisfied or negotiations do not conclude within the indicated period, the Province may discontinue negotiations with a Proponent to continue this process, or elect to cancel the CFP process.

2.8 Notification of Negotiation Status

Other Proponents that may become eligible for Provincial negotiations may be notified at the commencement of the negotiation process with the top-ranked Proponent(s).

PART 3 – TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CFP PROCESS

3.1 General Information and Instructions

3.1.1 Proponents to Follow Instructions

Proponents should structure their submissions in accordance with this CFP (Appendix D).

3.1.2 Proposals in English

All submissions must be in English.

3.1.3 No Incorporation by Reference

The content of external websites or documents not attached will not form part of the submission.

3.1.4 Proponents to Bear Their Own Costs

Proponents bear all costs associated with preparation and presentation, including interviews or demonstrations.

3.1.5 Proposal to be Retained by Dalhousie University

Submissions and accompanying documents will not be returned.

3.1.6 No Guarantee of Volume or Exclusivity

Qualification under this CFP does not guarantee that a Proponent will be selected to participate in the Program. The Province reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to select multiple Proponents, or to select none, based on the evaluation criteria and overall objectives of the Program.

3.2 Communication after Issuance of CFP

3.2.1 Proponents to Review CFP

Proponents should promptly examine all documents and seek clarification by the Deadline for Questions via the bidding system. Dalhousie is not responsible for information from any source other than the CFP Contact or the bidding system.

3.2.2 All New Information to Proponents by Way of Addenda

This CFP may be amended only by addendum issued in the bidding system. Each addendum forms an integral part of this CFP.

3.2.3 Post-Deadline Addenda and Extension of Submission Deadline

If an addendum is issued after the deadline for issuing addenda, Dalhousie may extend the relevant submission deadline for a reasonable period.

3.2.4 Verify, Clarify, and Supplement

Dalhousie may request further information to verify, clarify, or supplement information provided, and may re-evaluate based on such information.

3.3 Conflict of Interest and Prohibited Conduct

3.3.1 Conflict of Interest

“Conflict of Interest” includes any situation where a Proponent has, or could be seen to have, an unfair advantage or interests that could impair performance of obligations (including access to confidential information, or involvement in the development of this CFP).

3.3.2 Disqualification for Conflict of Interest

Dalhousie or the Province may disqualify a Proponent for conduct or circumstances constituting a Conflict of Interest.

3.3.3 Prohibited Proponent Communications

Proponents must not engage in communications that could constitute a Conflict of Interest and should note the declaration requirements in the Submission Form.

3.3.4 Proponent Not to Communicate with Media

Proponents must not communicate with the media in relation to this CFP without written permission of the CFP Contact.

3.3.5 Illegal or Unethical Conduct

Proponents must not engage in illegal business practices (e.g., bid-rigging, bribery, fraud) or unethical conduct (e.g., lobbying contrary to rules, gifts, deceit).

3.4 Confidential Information

3.4.1 Confidential Information of Dalhousie University

All information provided by or obtained from the University in connection with this CFP is the sole property of the University and/or the Province, must be treated as confidential, used only for this CFP and any subsequent agreements, not disclosed without authorization, and returned upon request.

3.4.2 Confidential Information of Proponent

A Proponent should identify information supplied in confidence. Confidentiality will be maintained except as required by law or order of a court/tribunal. Submissions may be disclosed confidentially to advisers retained by Dalhousie and to the Province.

3.4.3 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP)

Submissions may be subject to disclosure under the Nova Scotia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP). Proponents should clearly identify confidential information, recognizing legal disclosure obligations.

3.5 Procurement Process Non-Binding

3.5.1 No Contract A and No Claims

This process is not intended to create, and will not create, a formal, legally binding bidding process (no Contract A). Neither the Proponent nor Dalhousie/the Province shall have the right to make claims with respect to the award, failure to award, or failure to honour a proposal.

3.5.2 No Contract until Execution of Written Agreement

This process is intended to identify prospective participants for Provincial negotiations. No legal relationship or obligation is created until execution of a written agreement with the Province (if any).

3.5.3 Cancellation

Dalhousie may cancel or amend the CFP without liability at any time.

3.5.4 Governing Law and Interpretation

These Terms and Conditions of this CFP are to be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Nova Scotia and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.

Provisions are to be interpreted broadly and independently and are non-exhaustive.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Expression of Interest

Appendix B – Proponent Information and Acknowledgements

Appendix C – Full Submission Requirements

Appendix D – Evaluation Criteria

Appendix E – Data Sharing Agreement

Appendix F – Reimbursements and Eligible Expenses

APPENDIX A – Expression of Interest Template

A.1 Purpose & Instructions

The EOI is a short, non-binding market-sounding step. Submit via the bidding system using the prescribed fields. Submissions will be accepted until Mar 11, 2026 – 2:00 PM Atlantic.

Although submission of an EOI is not required to submit a CFP proposal, it is encouraged as a means of gauging early interest in the Program.

A.2 EOI Form

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) RESPONSE FORM

Submission Date: _____

1. PROPONENT INFORMATION

Legal Corporate Name: _____

Jurisdiction of Incorporation: _____

Corporate Registration Number (if applicable): _____

Primary Point of Contact:

- Name: _____
- Title: _____
- Organization: _____
- Email: _____
- Phone: _____

2. STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Please indicate the Proponent's interest in participating in the Program:

The Proponent confirms its interest in participating in the Program.

3. EXECUTION TIMELINE

Please indicate the Proponent's ability to execute operations within the 2026 timeframe:

The Proponent confirms, to the best of their knowledge and ability, it has the capability and intent to execute operations within the 2026 timeline, subject to regulatory approvals and commercial arrangements.

APPENDIX B – Proponent Information and Acknowledgements

Instructions: Complete all fields and declarations below. Submit this form as part of your Full Submission through Dalhousie University’s electronic bidding system. All fields must be completed by the Lead Proponent (if a consortium).

B.1. Proponent Information

Full Legal Name of Proponent (Lead Proponent if consortium):	
Other Business Names (if any):	
Jurisdiction of Incorporation/Formation:	
Street Address:	
City / Province/State / Country:	
Postal Code:	
Website (if any):	
Primary Contact Name & Title:	
Primary Contact Phone:	
Primary Contact Email:	

B.2. Consortium Details (if applicable)

If submitting as a consortium or joint venture, identify the Lead Proponent (Operator) above and list all consortium members and their roles below. The Lead Proponent must have authority to bind all consortium members for the purposes of this CFP and any resulting Provincial award.

Consortium Member Legal Name	Working Interest	Contact (Name/Email)

B.3. Declarations and Acknowledgements

Non-Binding Process:

We acknowledge that this CFP does not create a formal, legally binding bidding process (no Contract A) and that no legal relationship or obligation regarding the procurement of any goods or services will be created unless and until a written agreement is executed by the Province.

Province as Awarding Authority; Multiple Selections:

We acknowledge that Dalhousie administers this CFP and will provide confirmation of qualified Proponents to the Province, and that the Province will conduct negotiations and make final award decision(s). We acknowledge that one or more Proponents may be selected.

Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) – Pre-Condition of Provincial Award:

We acknowledge that the DSA is attached to this CFP as Appendix F and that execution of the DSA, in the form attached (subject only to minor administrative clarifications not altering material risk allocation or core data-sharing obligations), will be required if we are selected for Provincial award. We understand no DSA is required at submission stage.

Ability to Provide Deliverables:

We have carefully reviewed the CFP and have a clear and comprehensive understanding of the Deliverables, timelines and requirements. We represent and warrant our ability to perform in accordance with the CFP (subject to any specific assumptions/clarifications disclosed in our submission).

Addenda:

We have reviewed and taken into account all addenda issued prior to the deadline for issuing addenda.

Communication with Competitors:

Except as disclosed below, we prepared our submission independently and without consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with any competitor regarding pricing, methods, quality, quantity, specifications or delivery. (If applicable, disclose parties and reasons below.)

No Prohibited Conduct:

We have not engaged in prohibited conduct, including illegal practices (e.g., bid-rigging, price-fixing, bribery, fraud, coercion, collusion) or unethical conduct (e.g., lobbying contrary to the CFP rules, gifts, deceit, obstructive behavior).

Conflict of Interest:

We declare any actual, potential, or perceived Conflict of Interest, including the names of any individuals who participated in preparing this submission and were employees of Dalhousie University or the Provincial Department of Energy within the past twelve (12) months. (If applicable, disclose details below.)

FOIPOP and Disclosure to Advisers:

We acknowledge that submissions may be subject to disclosure under the Nova Scotia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP). We consent to confidential disclosure of our submission to advisers retained by Dalhousie to assist with the CFP process.

If you checked a declaration that requires disclosure, provide details below and add pages if necessary:

Communications with Competitors – Disclosure (names, nature, reasons): <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Conflict of Interest – Details: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Other Disclosures/Assumptions/Clarifications: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

B.4. Signature

By signing below, the undersigned represents and warrants that they have the authority to bind the Proponent (and, if a consortium, the authority to bind the Lead Proponent for the purposes of this CFP).

Name of Authorized Signatory:	
Title:	
Organization (Lead Proponent):	
Signature:	
Date:	
I have authority to bind the Proponent.	

APPENDIX C – Full Submission Template (Structure & Instructions)

C.1 Purpose

This Appendix sets the structure and formatting for Full Submissions. It ensures comparable, complete responses that can be evaluated consistently against the Criteria in Appendix D. Dalhousie will use this template to organize the evaluation; the Province will use the results to proceed to negotiations and award(s).

C.2 General Instructions

- Submission method: Electronic via Dalhousie's bidding system .
- File structure: One (1) Submission PDF using this Appendix C order
- Naming: – Full Submission – SERDIP – .pdf
- Fonts/formatting: Minimum 11 pt; accessible PDFs; no embedded files or password protection.
- Cross references: Where asked, provide section/page references in your response.
- Confidentiality: Mark confidential elements.

C.3 Executive Summary

- High level overview of your proposed participation in SERDIP, key objectives, differentiators, and readiness for 2026 mobilization and drilling.

C.4 Proponent Information

Proponents are encouraged to include as much of the following information as possible:

- Provide evidence of corporate registration.
- Provide evidence of Business Management System including corporate governance on well delivery (Drilling & Completions), Health Safety, and Environment (HSE), Supply Chain Management (SCM).
- Provide evidence of organizational and personnel competence including operational management and technical teams (subsurface, D&C, HSE). This should be in the form of detailed CV's for key personnel.
- Provide evidence of financial capacity & insurance - include most recent audited corporate financial statement and evidence of insurance.
- Provide a list of experience delivering on similar programs including date, location, and geology / play type. Also include innovative technologies used that optimize well design/plan or reduce HSE risk, etc.
- Provide evidence of drilling and operational performance track record including corporate HSE statistics, regulatory compliance history, and operational KPIs.
- Provide information on corporate green energy initiatives and sustainability programs.

C.5 Technical Project Elements

At a minimum, the following information is to be included in the submission:

- **Project overview:** A high-level description of the proposed project, including approximate geographic location(s), play type, geological target(s), and the anticipated number of wells.
- **Indicative Budget:** A high-level budget, including major cost components and the key assumptions upon which the budget is based including the potential for rig sharing.
- **Schedule:** A proposed schedule for the project, including major activities, milestones, and associated planning or preparatory activities.
- **Land Access:** Identification of land ownership and the Proponent's high-level strategy for securing land access.
- **Enclose organizational structure for the Project.**

APPENDIX D – Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be evaluated using the following weighted criteria:

- Corporate governance and sustainability framework – 25%
- Technical competency of personnel / organization – 25%
- Performance track record on analogous programs – operational, HSE, regulatory compliance – 25%
- Financial capability – 25%

APPENDIX E – Data Sharing Agreement

DATA SHARING AND USE AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”)

This Agreement is effective as of [date] (the “Effective Date”)

Between:

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (“Dalhousie”)

And

[name of proponent] (the “Company”)

(Each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”)

WHEREAS Dalhousie entered into a Subsurface Energy R&D Investment Program Agreement dated January 30th, 2026 (the “**Provincial Agreement**”) with the Province of Nova Scotia (the “**Province**”) whereby Dalhousie agreed to administer the Subsurface Energy Research and Development Investment Program (the “**Program**”) and complete Program-related research (the “**Program-Related Research**”);

AND WHEREAS under the terms of the Provincial Agreement, Dalhousie is required to submit certain Program deliverables to the Province, including: i) a final Program report (the “**Final Report**”); and ii) a Program research report (“the **Research Report**”);

AND WHEREAS the Company has been selected by the Province as a successful proponent to participate in the Program and complete exploratory drilling activities under the Program. Through these activities, the Company will collect certain geological and environmental data;

AND WHEREAS Dalhousie requires access to and use of such geological and environmental data, as well as certain Company operational data, in order to complete the Program-Related Research, the Final Report, and the Research Report;

AND WHEREAS as a condition of its participation in the Program, the Company agrees to provide Dalhousie with access to and use of such data on the terms outlined herein;

NOW THEREFORE the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Data

As a condition of its participation in the Program, the Company agrees to share with Dalhousie the data set out in Schedule “A” (the “**Data**”) in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and applicable laws. Schedule A may be amended from time to time upon written agreement of the Parties.

2. Format and Frequency

Company will provide the Data to Dalhousie in the format prescribed in Schedule A. Throughout the Term (as defined below) of this Agreement, the Company will provide updated Data to Dalhousie based on the timeline set out in Schedule A.

3. Data Ownership, Licensing, and Use

- a) The Data shared under this Agreement shall continue to be owned by the Company. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to transfer or assign ownership rights in or to the Data.
- b) The Company hereby grants to Dalhousie a non-exclusive, sublicensable, royalty-free license to use the Data for the purposes of the Program (the “**Authorized Purposes**”). For clarity, this includes, but is not necessarily limited to:
 - i) Use of the Data for purposes of completing the Program-Related Research, including the inclusion of the Data in any research outputs. Such outputs may be subject to further disclosure (including public disclosure) by Dalhousie, the Province, or any researcher who participated in the Program-Related Research;
 - ii) Use of the Data for purposes of completing the Research Report for submission to the Province, including the inclusion of the Data in the Research Report. The Research Report may be subject to further disclosure (including public disclosure) by the Province, Dalhousie, or any researcher who participated in the Program-Related Research;
 - iii) Use of the Data for purposes of completing the Final Report for submission to the Province, including the inclusion of Data in the Final Report. The Final Report may be subject to further disclosure (including public disclosure) by the Province; and
 - iv) Use of the Data for any other Program purposes.

For the avoidance of any doubt, for the purposes of this Agreement, the right to “use” the Data shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, the right to access, summarize, copy, reproduce, analyze, aggregate, de-aggregate, adapt, modify, create derivatives of, combine with other datasets, review, quality-check, validate, store, convert between formats, digitize, standardize, interpret, model, simulate, enhance, archive, reprocess/re-interpret, and to complete risk assessments, cost-benefit analyses, economic modeling, environmental impact assessments, and/or distribute the Data (only for the Authorized Purposes or as otherwise permitted herein).

- c) The Company agrees that to the extent that any Program outputs or deliverables are created using the Data (including, but not necessarily limited to, the Final Report and the Research Report), those Program outputs or deliverables will be owned by Dalhousie (or its researchers) or the Province, as applicable, subject to any intellectual property rights of the Company in or to the Data contained therein.
- d) The license granted in Article 3(b) shall expire upon completion of the Term (as defined below). However, to the extent that the Data is incorporated into any Program outputs

- or deliverables (including, but not necessarily limited to, the Final Report and the Research Report), the license shall be extended indefinitely only to the extent necessary to enable Dalhousie, the Program researchers, and/or the Province to exercise their rights in the Program outputs or deliverables.
- e) Company agrees to execute all further documents and do all other things reasonably required to perfect Dalhousie's license in and to the Data as described in this Article.
 - f) Dalhousie agrees to use the Data solely for the Authorized Purposes. Dalhousie shall not use the Data for any other purpose without first obtaining the prior written consent of the Company.
 - g) The Company specifically acknowledges that Dalhousie will provide some or all of the Data to the Province through its inclusion of Data in the Final Report and the Research Report. Dalhousie makes no representations or warranties with respect to the use of the Data by the Province.

4. Company Representations and Warranties

- a) The Company represents and warrants that:
 - i) it has all the necessary authorizations and permissions to grant Dalhousie access to, and use of, the Data as described herein;
 - ii) it has complied with applicable privacy laws and other laws in respect of its collection, disclosure, and handling of the Data;
 - iii) the receipt, use, handling, and disclosure of the Data by Dalhousie in the manner contemplated by this Agreement will not breach any privacy laws, other laws, or the rights of any third party; and
 - iv) it has and/or shall obtain all consents and approvals from, and shall make any notifications to, any individuals to whom such Data relates that are necessary for the Company to provide the Data to Dalhousie as contemplated by this Agreement, and for Dalhousie to receive, use, and disclose the Data as contemplated herein without the need for Dalhousie to obtain further consents from, or provide any further notices to, those individuals.
- b) Company indemnifies Dalhousie against all liabilities, costs, losses, and expenses which Dalhousie may suffer or incur in connection with any third-party claims or regulatory actions brought against it arising from any actual or alleged breach of the warranties in this Article 4.

5. Confidentiality

Except as otherwise permitted by this Agreement, Dalhousie agrees to treat the Data as confidential and not disclose the Data or permit it to be disclosed to any third party (other

than employees, researchers, agents, consultants, contractors, or advisors with a need to know who are bound by confidentiality obligations at least as strict as those set out herein). The obligation of confidentiality contained in this paragraph shall not apply to Data which:

- a) at the time of receipt by Dalhousie is in the public domain;
- b) after its receipt by Dalhousie is made public through no breach of this Agreement by Dalhousie;
- c) was in the possession of Dalhousie before its receipt from the Company;
- d) was developed independently by Dalhousie personnel who did not have access to the Data;
- e) was acquired by Dalhousie directly or indirectly from a third party which is not legally prohibited from disclosing such information, provided such information was not acquired directly or indirectly from the provider under an obligation of confidentiality; or
- f) is required to be disclosed by law. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Company acknowledges that Dalhousie is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Nova Scotia)*, which may require disclosure of certain Data in accordance with that legislation.

6. Safeguarding of the Data

- a) Dalhousie agrees to use appropriate safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of the Data other than as provided for in this Agreement.
- b) Dalhousie agrees to provide prompt written notice to Company of any use or disclosure of Data not provided for by this Agreement of which Dalhousie becomes aware. Dalhousie agrees to cooperate with the Company in attempting to mitigate any effects of such unauthorized use or disclosure of the Data.

7. Term and Termination

- a) This Agreement shall come into effect on the Effective Date and will continue in force until the date on which Dalhousie confirms that it no longer requires access to the Data for purposes of the Program (the "**Expiry Date**"), unless earlier terminated by Dalhousie in accordance with this Article 7 (the "**Term**").
- b) Dalhousie may terminate this Agreement for convenience by giving 30 days' written notice to the Company.

- c) Upon the expiry or termination of this Agreement, Dalhousie will securely destroy all copies of the Data or return all copies of the Data to the Company (at the option of the Company), except to the extent that any Data is incorporated into any of the Program outputs or deliverables. Nothing in this Article 7(c) requires Dalhousie to return or destroy any Program outputs or deliverables or restricts Dalhousie or the Program researchers from retaining and continuing to use the Program outputs or deliverables for purposes permitted under the Provincial Agreement.

8. Access to Drilling Sites for Additional Data Collection

Dalhousie may request permission for Program researchers to access Company's drilling site(s) for the purpose of collecting additional/alternative data as part of the Program-Related Research. Company agrees to consider and grant such requests, subject to any safety or operational concerns. Any Program researchers who are granted access to Company site(s) under this section shall comply with directions given by the Company while on-site. Any data collected under this section shall be subject to the provisions of this Agreement.

9. Indemnity

Company will indemnify and hold harmless Dalhousie and its directors, officers, employees, and agents against all losses and expenses arising out of the Company's negligence, wilful misconduct, or breach of its obligations under this Agreement.

10. Notices

Any notices required or permitted under this Agreement will be in writing and delivered personally, by mail, email or by facsimile as follows:

Dalhousie:

Vice President Research and Innovation
6283 Alumni Crescent
PO Box 15000
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4R2

Company:

[to insert]

11. Further Steps

Company will promptly take any steps that Dalhousie reasonably requires of it to give effect to this Agreement and perform its obligations hereunder.

12. Governing Law

This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Nova Scotia and the applicable laws of Canada.

13. Survival

The obligations which by their nature survive, or which are expressed to survive, the termination or expiry of this Agreement will survive such termination or expiry of this Agreement, including, without limitation this Article 12 and Articles 3, 4, and 9.

14. Severability

If any part of this Agreement is declared unenforceable or invalid, the remainder will continue to be valid and enforceable.

15. Time of Essence

Time shall be of the essence of this Agreement.

16. Amendments

No amendment, change to, or modification of this Agreement shall be valid unless it is in writing and signed by both Parties.

17. Entire Agreement

The Parties intend that this Agreement, together with all attachments, schedules, exhibits, and other documents that both are referenced in this Agreement and refer to this Agreement contain all the terms the Parties agreed to relating to the subject matter.

18. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original, and all of which will together constitute one and the same Agreement. The Agreement will be deemed to be fully executed when signed by each of the Parties through written signature, Portable Document Format (PDF), validated digital signature, or other reliable electronic means, and delivered to the other Party.

The Parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Per _____

Name:

Title:

[Company name]

Per _____

Name:

Title:

Schedule “A”

This Agreement does not require the Company to collect any specific data. However, if the data listed below is applicable to the exploratory drilling project and is acquired, generated, or derived in connection with it, it must be shared in accordance with this Agreement. The required format and submission frequency are set out in the table below.

Data Category	Specific Data Type	Required Format	Submission Frequency / Timing
Drilling & Completions Data	Wellsite survey	PDF	Upon completion of survey
	Daily Drilling & Completions Operations Reports / CAOEC Tour Sheet	PDF	Weekly
	Drilling & Completions 7 Day Operational Look Ahead (including well location(s) and activities planned)	PDF	Weekly
	Directional surveys (plots + data)	PDF (plots); Text (data)	Weekly
	Real-time drilling / mudlogging data incl. mud gas (if available)	LAS; PDF	Weekly
	Casing, cementing, completion equipment reports	PDF	Upon completion of each operation
	Stimulation Report (incl. operational data, fluid composition, water source)	PDF	Within 30 days of stimulation
	Well abandonment / suspension record	PDF	Within 48 hours of rig release
Geological Data	Daily wellsite geology reports / lithology logs	PDF	Weekly
	Cuttings description	PDF	Weekly
	Core analysis / photography report - including lithology, porosity, and permeability	PDF	Upon completion of analysis
	Core logs – including Vp, Vs, density	LAS	Upon completion of logging
Well History Report	Comprehensive well history report (drilling, completion, evaluation, abandonment/suspension, interpretation)	PDF	Within 90 days of rig release

Data Category	Specific Data Type	Required Format	Submission Frequency / Timing
Wireline / LWD Data	Open-hole and cased-hole logs Raw and processed log data (where applicable)	LAS	Raw – upon completion of logging operations Processed – within 30 days of logging
	Log analysis & interpretation reports	PDF	Within 30 days of logging
Production Flow Test Data	Final test report including results & interpretation – flared / vented volumes	PDF	Within 30 days of test completion
Gas / Fluid Analyses	Laboratory analysis reports	PDF	Upon receipt of lab results
Environmental Baseline & Monitoring Data	Groundwater and surface water sampling / test results*	Excel; PDF	Baseline pre-drill; ongoing during operations; final post-operations
	Wastewater and flowback sampling / volumes / source*	Excel; PDF	Ongoing during operations; final summary post-operations
	Wastewater and flowback treatment, storage, discharge sampling*	Excel; PDF	During operations; final report post-operations
	Drilling waste disposal report	PDF	Upon completion of disposal activities
Seismicity Monitoring Data	Seismicity monitoring results (if available)	PDF; CSV	During operations; final report post-operations
HSE Data	HSE incident reports	PDF	As incidents occur
Planning Phase Reporting	Project update reports – including status, upcoming milestones, and notification of changes	PDF	Weekly

*The full data set shall be provided, and not just exceedance values.

APPENDIX F – Reimbursements and Eligible Expenses

F.1 Program Objective

To reduce early-stage exploration risk and accelerate subsurface data acquisition by sharing a portion of eligible exploration well costs, while maintaining strong operator accountability and execution discipline. Note: Wildcat or less explored areas may receive priority consideration.

F.2 Incentive Structure

- Incentive applied on a per-well basis
- Reimbursement structure (tiered):
 - 100% reimbursement of the first \$2 million CAD of eligible costs
 - Followed by 50% reimbursement up to reimbursement cap
 - Reimbursement Cap: \$5 million CAD per well

F.3 Eligible Expenses (Direct Project Costs Only)

- Equipment mobilization and demobilization
 - Drilling rig
 - Major drilling and completion services
- Drilling & Completion (D&C) tangibles
 - Casing, wellhead, cement
 - Drilling and completion fluids
 - Completion equipment and consumables
- D&C services and rentals
- Formation evaluation
 - Wireline logging
 - Coring
 - Production testing and extended well tests
- Lease preparation and access
 - Lease construction
 - Road construction required for drilling operations
- Project personnel costs
 - Labor directly assigned to field execution and well delivery
- Well site survey costs

Where a rig-sharing arrangement is established, mobilization and demobilization costs will be allocated proportionally among participating proponents.

F.4 Ineligible Expenses

- Permitting and regulatory application costs

- Stakeholder engagement and consultation activities
- Environmental baseline studies, monitoring, or compliance programs
- Corporate overhead and general & administrative costs (G&A)
- Travel, insurance, taxes
- Penalties or fines
- Debt financing costs
- Capital costs for assets

F.5 Reimbursement Criteria

Reimbursement is contingent upon successful completion of the approved exploratory drilling project scope, including:

- Well drilled to planned Total Depth (TD) in accordance with pre-drill TD criteria
- Well completed, stimulated, and/or tested in accordance with pre-drill decision criteria
- All planned formation evaluation completed
- Well is properly suspended or abandoned in compliance with regulatory requirements
- No major environmental incidents or serious regulatory non-compliances

F.6 Payment Timing & Controls

- Reimbursement upon full completion of the approved exploratory drilling project scope (i.e. upon rig release).
- Optional staged reimbursement for extensive completion, stimulation, or testing:
 - Partial reimbursement may be considered upon reaching TD, subject to:
 - Verification of costs
 - Continued commitment to complete the full project.
 - Holdback mechanism:
 - Final reimbursement withheld until all program objectives and data submissions are satisfied

F.7 Execution and Performance Conditions

- Execution discipline required, including:
 - No major non-productive time (NPT) exceeding defined thresholds (e.g. >30 days)
 - Active drilling and completion operations completed within a defined execution window (e.g. ≤3 months)
- Cost oversight and audit rights retained by the administering authority
- Full participation in the data program, including:
 - Submission of all agreed technical data
 - Compliance with data confidentiality and release provisions