September 18, 2014

Mr. Stephen Bellringer  
Chair  
BC Hydro  
18th Floor, 333 Dunsmuir Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3

Dear Mr. Bellringer:

Further to the Taxpayer Accountability Principles (attached) recently announced by Premier Christy Clark, this letter amends the BC Hydro 2014/15 Government Letter of Expectations (GLE).

The principles recognize that the boards of public sector organizations (PSOs) have a higher accountability to the taxpayer - in addition to their traditional fiduciary duty to the organization. These principles are to be built into the ongoing operations of BC Hydro to ensure that its decisions reflect the priorities and values of government and the shareholders – the citizens of British Columbia.

The following Taxpayer Accountability Principles actions are to be implemented this fiscal year, in addition to the existing direction outlined in the 2014/15 GLE:

1. Adopt the Taxpayer Accountability Principles - cost consciousness (efficiency), accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity - for your board and throughout your organization.

2. Complete and make publically available your organization’s revised comprehensive Code of Conduct by November 2014, as per the July 2014 letter from the Minister of Finance, containing government’s guidance about standards of conduct - including but not limited to conflict of interest provisions and post-employment restrictions.

3. Develop and implement, in collaboration with the Deputy Minister responsible for your organization, a strategic engagement plan for 2014/15.

4. Demonstrate that your organization has undertaken comprehensive and appropriate communication, orientation and training on the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, accountability framework and roles and expectations for the board and executive.

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5. Participate in regular meetings with myself, and ensure your CEO meets regularly with the Deputy Minister to focus on performance against the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, results and strategic decision making.

6. Complete an annual Chair/CEO letter, which will be published in the 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report, that reports on your organization’s performance in relation to the mandate letter. This can be done for 2014/15 by using the table format outlined in Annual Report Guidelines available at http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/topic/3d2769b5aef4a6566c89c90968de22c3/car0/annual_report_guidelines.pdf and must include a Taxpayer Accountability Principles implementation progress report.

7. Work with the Ministry to develop an evaluation plan with specific efficiency and performance measures as determinates of the organization’s health and performance against the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, which may include annual feedback from government. A “transitional” phase one evaluation plan may be used for 2014/15 and published in the 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report. The fully developed evaluation plan is to be used in 2015/16 and reported in the 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report.

The Taxpayer Accountability Principles are being implemented to enhance public sector governance, increase accountability, promote cost control, and ensure the provincial PSOs operate in the best interest of the taxpayers. To support the implementation of the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, please ensure all board members sign this addendum to the 2014/15 GLE, by September 30, 2014, and the new 2015/16 mandate letter, when finalized later in the year. This signed addendum is to be posted publicly on your organization’s website.

The principles have a strong focus on improved two-way communication between government and the provincial public sector entities, to ensure a complete understanding of expectations. I look forward to working with you further on the implementation of Taxpayer Accountability Principles.

Should you have questions please contact Mr. Dave Nikolejsin, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Sincerely,

Bill Bennett
Minister

Attachment
pc:  Honourable Christy Clark
     Premier

     Mr. John Dyble
     Deputy Minister to the Premier
     and Cabinet Secretary
Mr. Peter Milburn  
Deputy Minister  
and Secretary to Treasury Board  
Ministry of Finance

Mr. Dave Nikolejsin  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Ms. Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland  
Associate Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Finance

Mr. Bill Adsit  
Board Member  
BC Hydro

Mr. W.J. Brad Bennett  
Board Member  
BC Hydro

Mr. Larry Blain  
Board Member  
BC Hydro

Mr. James M. Brown  
Board Member  
BC Hydro

Mr. James P. Hatton  
Director  
BC Hydro

Mr. John Knappett  
Board Member  
BC Hydro

Ms. Tracey L. McVicar  
Board Member  
BC Hydro
Ms. Janine North
Board Member
BC Hydro

Mr. John Ritchie
Board Member
BC Hydro

Mr. Jack Weisgerber
Board Member
BC Hydro

Ms. Jessica McDonald
President and CEO
BC Hydro