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October 2, 2019

Mr. Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary and Manager
Regulatory Support
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Mr. Wruck:

**RE: British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or Commission)
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
Evacuee Assistance Application; and
Evacuation Relief Tariff Amendment and Regulatory Account Treatment
Application**

BC Hydro writes to respond to the BCUC staff question shown below.

**1.0 Reference: Charges to be Waived
Application, p. 5-13.**

In the application, BC Hydro has outlined the following terms related to approval of charges to be waived. These terms were not contained in previous applications regarding evacuee assistance.

- Page 4 of the Application states evacuee assistance will apply to customers receiving service under:
 - Small General Service customers under Rate Schedules 1234, 1205, 1300, 1301, 1310 and 1311.
 - Private Outdoor Lighting customers under Rate Schedule 1755.
- Page 7 of the Application states:

BC Hydro proposes that waivers be provided for customers who are subject to Evacuation Orders that exceed five consecutive days. BC Hydro believes that a five day threshold provides a reasonable balance between the relief provided and the level of administrative effort to identify customers subject to Evacuation Orders, and to calculate and apply bill credits.

- Page 14 of the Application states Given the BCUC direction to amend the Tariff, BC Hydro believes the proposed treatment of revenue impacts should be to the account of ratepayers as opposed to its Shareholder...”
- 1.1. As the above terms are also part of the Tariff amendments requested by BC Hydro, and require further process, would BC Hydro accept approval for interim relief based on the same terms as 2018?

RESPONSE:

BC Hydro would accept BCUC consent to waive charges for customers under an evacuation order resulting from a state of emergency declared pursuant to a statutory authority by a local authority, provincial government, federal government, or First Nations band council (Evacuation Orders) between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 (Applicable Period), under the terms below, which are similar to the conditions approved in Commission Order No. G-189-18.¹

- 1. BC Hydro will provide a credit that would otherwise be applicable to customers under Evacuation Orders for the basic charges, energy charges and street lighting rates as set out in the specific Rate Schedules under which customers receive service during the Applicable Period, as follows:**
 - i. General Service – Basic Charge and Energy Charge;**
 - ii. Residential Service – Basic Charge and Energy Charge;**
 - iii. Irrigation – Energy Charge; and**
 - iv. Street Lighting – all charges;**
- 2. BC Hydro will provide a credit to customers whose dwelling was destroyed while they were under an Evacuation Order during the Applicable Period for all charges for service for the period immediately after the last billing period before the destruction;**
- 3. BC Hydro will provide a credit for the Service Connection Charge as set out in section 3.14 of BC Hydro’s Electric Tariff for residential customers constructing a new dwelling if their prior dwelling was destroyed while they were under an Evacuation Order during the Applicable Period and if the Service Connection Charge is not recoverable as part of their insurance; and**

¹ <https://www.ordersdecisions.bcuc.com/bcuc/orders/en/item/345403/index.do>.

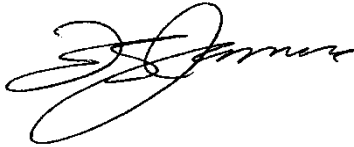
- 4. BC Hydro will waive or not calculate the Late Payment Charge set out in section 6.3 of the BC Hydro Electric Tariff for a customer under an Evacuation Order during the Applicable Period until after the evacuation order has been lifted. The waiver will not apply to a pre-established payment plan.**

For the Applicable Period only, BC Hydro's revenue reduction resulting from providing bill credits and waivers to customers subject to Evacuation Orders will be to the account of the shareholder.

BC Hydro clarifies that relief for customers affected by an Evacuation Order beyond December 31, 2019 are not covered by the above conditions, and submits that potential relief for those customers would be subject to BC Hydro's Evacuation Relief Tariff Application filed with the BCUC on August 8, 2019 would be.²

For further information, please contact Anthea Jubb at 604-623-3545 or by email at bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com.

Yours sincerely,



Fred James
Chief Regulatory Officer

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² <https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/corporate/regulatory-planning-documents/regulatory-filings/tariffs/00-2019-08-08-bch-evacuee-assistance-evacuation-relief-tariff-application-ff.pdf>