

Fred James

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July 26, 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: Project No. 1598990
British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or Commission)
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
Fiscal 2020 to Fiscal 2021 Revenue Requirements Application**

BC Hydro writes further to BCUC Order No. G-146-19, which directed BC Hydro to inform the BCUC when the Government of B.C.'s Public Accounts are released, if released prior to August 30, 2019, and to provide the BCUC with a date for the completion of the Evidentiary Update. The BCUC stated that "[t]he Panel, at that time, may issue a revised regulatory timetable to reflect these new dates."

BC Hydro advises that the Government of B.C.'s Public Accounts were released on Thursday, July 18, 2019. BC Hydro now expects to be able to file the Evidentiary Update by Thursday, August 22, 2019, which is shortly after the forecast underlying the Evidentiary Update would be reviewed and approved by the Audit and Finance Committee of BC Hydro's Board of Directors.

BC Hydro would also like to take this opportunity to request that the BCUC consider advancing the date of the second Procedural Conference, which is intended to address the scope of the oral component of this proceeding.

The Procedural Conference is currently scheduled for December 19, 2019, one of the last working days before Christmas. Considering the holiday break, this date would provide limited time between the BCUC's decision on the scope of the oral hearing and the start of the hearing on January 20, 2020 and would severely limit the amount of time available for BC Hydro to finalize and prepare our witness panels.

In Exhibit B-8 providing comments on procedural matters, BC Hydro outlined the benefits to BC Hydro and customers alike of identifying specific issues to define the scope of an oral component for this proceeding. These benefits included avoiding the use of valuable institutional capacity to prepare for any number of matters that do not

end up getting addressed in an oral hearing and enabling BC Hydro to focus its preparation so that the BCUC receives better evidence and areas of the organization that are not directly involved in the specific issues will be able to re-focus their efforts on running the business.

BC Hydro is concerned that the current timetable diminishes these benefits due to the limited time between the BCUC’s decision on the scope of the oral component and the start of the oral hearing on January 20, 2020.

Accordingly, BC Hydro requests that the BCUC advance the second Procedural Conference to the week of November 25, 2019. BC Hydro recognizes that this date would be before the filing of Intervener Evidence, but is of the view that intervener evidence would likely be within the scope of the oral phase of a hearing. BC Hydro is not opposed to an early determination by the BCUC that Intervener Evidence should be within the scope of the oral phase.

BC Hydro has canvassed those interveners representing our major customer groups with regards to this proposal. BC Sustainable Energy Association, Clean Energy Association of B.C., Commercial Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia, MoveUp and the Zone II Ratepayers Group support advancing the date of the second Procedural Conference. The Association of Major Power Customers of British Columbia do not support advancing the date. At the time of this letter, we have not heard back from the British Columbia Old Age Pensioners Organization et. al.

The following table provides a proposed timetable that reflects an Evidentiary Update filing on August 22, 2019, consequential changes to the dates for the filing of BCUC and intervener Information Requests and BC Hydro responses on the Evidentiary Update, and a second Procedural Conference during the week of November 25, 2019. BC Hydro also notes that it is not requesting to advance the date for the commencement of the Oral Hearing as this would negate the benefits of an earlier Procedural Conference.

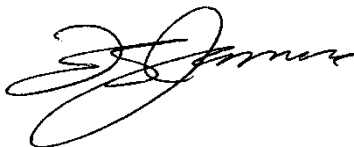
Table 1 BC Hydro’s Proposed Timetable

Action	Original Date	Proposed Revised Date (if applicable)
BCUC Information Request (IR) No. 2 to BC Hydro	Friday, July 26	No change
Intervener IR No. 2 to BC Hydro	Thursday, August 1	No change
BC Hydro Evidentiary Update	Tuesday, September 3	Thursday, August 22
BC Hydro responses to BCUC and Intervener IR No. 2	Tuesday, September 3	No change
BCUC and Intervener IRs on Evidentiary Update	Thursday, September 19	Thursday, September 12
BC Hydro response to BCUC and Intervener IRs on Evidentiary Update	Thursday, October 10	Thursday, October 3

Action	Original Date	Proposed Revised Date (if applicable)
BC Hydro 20-Year Load Forecast	Thursday, October 3	No change
Public Release of COE Evidentiary Update	Friday, October 18	No change
BCUC and Intervener IRs on 20-Year Load Forecast	Wednesday, October 30	No change
Intervener IRs on COE Evidentiary Update	Wednesday, October 30	No change
BC Hydro responds to BCUC and Intervener IRs on 20-Year Load Forecast	Thursday, November 14	No change
BC Hydro responds to Intervener IRs on COE Evidentiary Update	Thursday, November 14	No change
Procedural Conference	Thursday, December 19	Week of November 25
Intervener Evidence	Tuesday, December 3	No change
IRs on Intervener Evidence	Tuesday, December 17	No change
Responses to IRs on Intervener Evidence	Friday, January 10	No change
BC Hydro Rebuttal Evidence (if any)	Wednesday, January 15	No change
Oral Hearing	Commencing Monday, January 20	No change
BC Hydro Final Argument	Two weeks after the oral hearing concludes	No change
Intervener Final Arguments	Two weeks after BC Hydro Final Argument	No change
BC Hydro Reply Argument	Two weeks after Intervener Final Arguments	No change

For further information, please contact Chris Sandve at 604-974-4641 or by email at bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com.

Yours sincerely,



Fred James
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