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October 27, 2023

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

Dear Patrick Wruck:

**RE: Project No. 1599147**  
**British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or Commission)**  
**British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)**  
**2020 Street Light Rates Application (the Project)**  
**Compliance with BCUC Order No. G-312-21 Directive 7**  
**Annual Rate Schedule 1755 Report No. 1 – October 31, 2023**

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BC Hydro writes in compliance with Commission Order No. G-312-21, to provide Annual Rate Schedule 1755 Progress Report No. 1 for the Project.

For further information, please contact Shiau-Ching Chou at  
[bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com](mailto:bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com).

Yours sincerely,



Chris Sandve  
Chief Regulatory Officer

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Enclosure

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# **BC Hydro 2020 Street Light Rates Application**

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**Annual Rate Schedule 1755 Report No. 1**

**October 27, 2023**

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## 1 Background

On November 12, 2020, the British Columbia Power and Hydro Authority (**BC Hydro**) filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (**BCUC** or **Commission**) a street lighting rate application pursuant to sections 58 to 61 and section 63 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (**Application**), which included, among other things, BC Hydro's application to rescind of Rate Schedule (**RS**) 1755 – Private Outdoor Lighting.

Through its Decision and Order No. G-312-21 dated November 1, 2021 (**Order**), the Commission approved the rescindment of RS 1755. This rescindment requires customers who were taking illumination service under RS 1755 to migrate their service onto an appropriate rate schedule or discontinue service.

BC Hydro developed a transition plan (**Transition Plan**) to enable customers to continue to receive adequate outdoor illumination on private property at affordable rates and this Transition Plan was approved in the Order. BC Hydro has prepared this RS 1755 Compliance Report No. 1 in accordance with Directive 7 and reporting requirement No. 4 of the Order. Reporting requirement No. 4 directs BC Hydro to file two compliance reports regarding its actions to address customer unfamiliarity with the private outdoor lighting market and help reduce the financial barriers associated with the installation of new replacement lighting that result from the rescindment of RS 1755; including:

- General Status and Implementation;
- Customer Uptake;
- Participating Vendors:
  - ▶ Overview of Lighting Products, Pricing and Services;
  - ▶ Overview of Financing Options; and

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- Challenges and Issues.

## 2 General Status and Implementation

As of September 30, 2023, 3659 out of 4849 (75.4%) streetlights served under RS 1755 have either been removed or converted to Light-Emitting Diodes (**LED**) streetlights.

RS 1755 streetlights are categorized into three groups as follows:

1. **Group 1:** Where the light is mounted on a pole (on private property) that was installed by the customer, or by BC Hydro at the customer's expense;
2. **Group 2:** Where the light is mounted on a BC Hydro-owned pole that is on public property, or an easement, and is part of BC Hydro's distribution system; and
3. **Group 3:** Where a light is mounted on a pole that was installed on the customer's private property by BC Hydro, at BC Hydro's expense, solely for the purpose of supporting the light.

Group 2 customers can be migrated by BC Hydro to RS 1701 – Overhead Street Lighting, provided that the pole on which the light is mounted is within BC Hydro's distribution system and meets the RS 1701 availability criteria. Group 1 and Group 3 customers are responsible for all equipment and installation costs associated with migrating their service to an appropriate rate schedule.

Under the Transition Plan:

1. Where feasible, BC Hydro will allow Group 2 lights to be transitioned to RS 1701 and replaced with LED technology;
2. When no longer needed or suitable for continued use, BC Hydro will remove Group 1 (customer-owned) poles at the request of the customer at no cost to the customer;

3. BC Hydro will waive the Service Connection fees that would be incurred should a new, metered electrical service be required to continue illuminating private property;
4. BC Hydro will recruit qualified outdoor lighting contractors from its Alliance of Energy Professionals network, to simplify and assist customers with the search and installation of appropriate new lighting solutions;
5. BC Hydro will work with Procurement Services BC to offer tools, resources, and competitive pricing for LED solutions for government customers; and
6. With program partners, BC Hydro will develop financial solutions to provide support with initial upfront costs.

The following provides a status breakdown by Group:

**Table 1 RS 1755 Removal/ Conversion Status to September 30, 2023**

	<b>Light Does Not Exist in the Field (data issue)</b>	<b>Light/Pole Removed</b>	<b>Pending Light/Pole Removal</b>	<b>LED Installed</b>	<b>Pending LED Streetlight Installation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Group 1	861	991	441	N/A	N/A	2,293
Group 2	100	449	218	637	329	1,733
Group 3	225	396	202	N/A	N/A	823
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>4,849</b>
Revised Count	0	1,836	861	637	329	3,663

As shown in the table, BC Hydro has determined that 3663 poles and/or lights require removal or conversion to LED streetlights.

BC Hydro remains on track to complete the RS 1755 related work, as planned, by the end of fiscal 2024.

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BC Hydro is continuing to engage and support customers impacted by the rescindment of RS 1755 – Private Outdoor Lighting service and to refer customers to qualified outdoor lighting contractors as required.

### **3 Customer Uptake**

#### **3.1 LED Replacement and Migration to RS 1701**

Of the 3663 lights that required removal or conversion to LEDs, 966 lights will be, or have been, converted to LEDs and 2697 lights poles and/or streetlights will be, or have been, removed.

##### **3.1.1 Migration to RS 1701**

BC Hydro has replaced 637 High-Pressure Sodium (**HPS**) or Mercury Vapour (**MV**) streetlights with LED streetlights for 237 Group 2 customers that decided to migrate their service to RS 1701 and expects to replace approximately 329 streetlights more by the end of fiscal 2024.

##### **3.1.2 Private Pole Removals**

BC Hydro removed 60 private poles for 57 Group 1 customers and expects approximately five more poles to be removed by the end of fiscal 2024.

##### **3.1.3 Waiver of Service Connection Fees**

BC Hydro supplies an informational brochure to all customers interested in new metered connection. To date, approximately 10 customers have elected to install new lighting using this option.

#### **3.2 Financing Options**

To support customers who must install their own lighting to replace a streetlight served under RS 1755, [Table 2](#) (based on data from the participating vendors) summarizes the numbers of customer inquiries received to September 30, 2024, as well as financing option enquiries and utilization.

**Table 2 Customer Inquiries and Financing**

Customer inquiries (Approx.)	Customers inquiring about financing	Customers utilizing financing
42	2	0

There are currently no customers utilizing vendor’s financing options.

### 3.2.1 Participating Vendors

Three vendors have been identified who could provide financing options to impacted customers and to support them with installing their own streetlights: EB Horsman & Sons, Narramata; IES Ventures, Richmond; and Lumisave, Prince George.

Customers are referred to these vendors by BC Hydro as appropriate.

#### 3.2.1.1 Overview of Lighting Products, Pricing and Services

BC Hydro has worked with and confirmed that the three vendors noted above have products and services available that would support impacted RS 1755 customers with installing their own lighting.

#### 3.2.1.2 Overview of Financing Options by Vendor

Financing is available for all customers with the vendors as noted in [Table 3](#) below. One vendor offers financing for low-income customers (IES Ventures). [Table 3](#) summarizes the financing options available to customers.

**Table 3 Financing Options by Vendor**

Vendor	General Market	Low Income
EB Horseman	No financing option	No financing option
IES Ventures	Financing option available	Financing option available
Lumisave	Financing option available	No specific option

As discussed above, BC Hydro also offers financial assistance through the waiving the metered Service Connection fee as per the Transition Plan. All customers requiring additional financing to install new streetlighting through their own lighting distributor may also receive financing offered by that lighting distributor; however, BC Hydro has no specific information on such arrangements. These financing



programs typically include costs of the installation labour and materials for streetlighting and poles.

### **3.3 LED Solutions for Government Customers**

BC Hydro partnered with Procurement Services BC to provide tools, resources and pricing on LED streetlighting to eligible government customers. BC Hydro has no information on the number of government customers who leveraged the services offered via Procurement Services BC since these services are administered by another party.

## **4 Challenges and Issues**

BC Hydro has not identified any significant challenges or issues that would hinder its ability to complete the work required for the termination of the RS 1755 service as planned. To date, the largest challenges have been:

1. For lights on private property, BC Hydro's practice is to try to obtain customer consent for access to the poles/lights and there have been some instances where this has proven difficult; and
2. Some of the requested removal of private poles cannot be undertaken by BC Hydro because the poles contain third-party telecom equipment and the customer must make other arrangements.