

Janet Fraser

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May 29, 2014

Ms. Erica Hamilton
Commission Secretary
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor – 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

**RE: British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC)
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
2015 Rate Design Application (RDA)
Pre-Application Workshops - Participant Assistance/Cost Awards (PACA)**

BC Hydro writes to request confirmation from the BCUC that pre-application workshops for the 2015 RDA qualify for PACA. BC Hydro expects to file its 2015 RDA in June 2015. To inform the preparation of the 2015 RDA, BC Hydro will be holding seven to ten workshops on various topics relating to the 2015 RDA. Some of the workshops will require pre-workshop review of materials by stakeholders and, in some cases, may require the engagement of a consultant; other workshops may not require significant pre-workshop preparation. The first workshop was held on May 8, 2014 to discuss the scope of the 2015 RDA. At the May 8 workshop participants asked BC Hydro to consider whether PACA would be available for the pre-application workshops and indicated that in the absence of such funding it could be difficult for certain stakeholders to participate in the workshops.

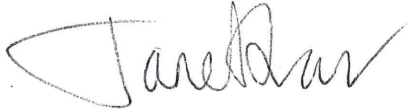
BC Hydro notes that the PACA Guidelines are guidelines and as such should be applied flexibly. As demonstrated at the May 8, 2014 workshop, the 2015 RDA is anticipated to be a broad application encompassing all seven of BC Hydro's customer classes. The BCUC in the 2007 RDA decision (page 57) concluded that rate design applications should be informed by the views of BC Hydro's customers prior to the filing of the application. BC Hydro believes that making PACA available to stakeholders for pre-application workshop purposes in accordance with the PACA Guidelines furthers this BCUC 2007 RDA finding. BC Hydro submits that making PACA available for participation in the pre-application workshops will lead to a more effective and efficient 2015 RDA regulatory review process. In the absence of PACA some stakeholders would likely be unable to attend and as such their input would not likely be available to inform the 2015 RDA. As a result, areas that could have been addressed or discussed prior to the application will be left to the BCUC regulatory review.

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For further information, please contact Gordon Doyle at 604-623-3815 or by email at bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Fraser
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