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November 24, 2015

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 or Commission)
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
F2016 Semi-Annual Deferral Accounts Report
for the Six Months ended September 30, 2015**

BC Hydro writes to provide its F2016 Semi-Annual Deferral Account Report for the six-month period ending September 30, 2015. This is in compliance with Directive No. 17 of the Commission's Decision on BC Hydro's F2005/F2006 Revenue Requirements Application (Commission Order No. G-96-04) and Commission Order No. G-112-14. This report contains information on the Heritage Deferral Account, the Non-Heritage Deferral Account, and the Trade Income Deferral Account.

For further information, please contact Fred James at 604-623-4317 or by email at bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed

Tom Loski
Chief Regulatory Officer

df/ma

Enclosure (1)

Deferral Account Report

F2016 Semi-Annual Report

For the Six Months Ended

September 30, 2015

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F2016 Semi-Annual Report
April 1 to September 30, 2015
Schedule A

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Summary of Deferral Accounts
For the Six Months Ended September 30, 2015
(\$ million)

Line No.	Particulars (Note 1)	Opening Balance at April 1, 2015	Changes (Schedule B)	Amortization (Note 4)	Interest (Note 5)	Ending Balance at September 30, 2015
1	Heritage Deferral Account (HDA)	164.7	(117.2) Note 2	(16.7)	1.0	31.7
2	Non-Heritage Deferral Account (NHDA)	524.1	192.0 Note 3	(53.1)	11.7	674.6
3	Trade Income Deferral Account (TIDA)	244.6	7.4	(24.8)	4.6	231.7
4	Total	933.4	82.2	(94.6)	17.3	938.1

Note 1: In the October 29, 2004 Commission Decision (Order No. G-96-04), the Commission approved the creation of four deferral accounts to capture the differences between forecasts used in setting rates and actual costs. By Order No. G-16-11, the Commission approved the termination of the BCTC Deferral Account.

Note 2: The transfers out of the HDA of (\$117.2) million are primarily due to higher than approved surplus sales and lower than approved water rental costs. In order to mitigate and reduce spill risk from higher storage levels built up during the winter months, more surplus energy was available for sale and therefore surplus sales revenues were higher than approved. Water rental costs were lower than approved as water rental payments in F2016 are based on prior year's generation volumes at current year's rates. In F2015, lower hydro energy was generated due to milder weather and fewer exports opportunities as a result of lower market prices. Please see Schedule B for details.

Note 3: The transfers into the NHDA of \$192 million are primarily due to lower than approved domestic revenues as a result of lower than approved residential and large industrial revenues, and higher IPP costs. Lower residential revenues are mainly due to lower than planned customer growth and warmer than normal weather. Lower large industrial revenues are mainly due to lower than forecast activity in the pulp and paper sector as well as the metal mining sector, driven by shutdowns due to market conditions. Lower than forecast activity in the oil and gas sector due to low natural gas prices and customers delay in coming on-line also contributed to lower large industrial revenues. Higher IPP costs are primarily due to higher deliveries from a customer which is selling electricity to BC Hydro while awaiting completion of a project upgrade that would utilize the electricity. Please see Schedule B for details.

Note 4: Revenues collected via the Deferral Account Rate Rider (DARR) are used to amortize (reduce) the deferral account balances. The reduction is allocated to each deferral account based on the proportion of the ending Fiscal 2015 deferral account balances.

Note 5: Interest is calculated on the ending monthly balance (before interest) in each deferral account. The interest rate used is BC Hydro's actual weighted average cost of debt for the current period as per Directive 1 (xxv) of the F12-F14 RRA Decision in Commission Order No. G-77-12A.

Due to minor rounding some totals may not add.

F2016 Semi-Annual Report
April 1 to September 30, 2015
Schedule B

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Summary of Deferral Account Changes
For the Six Months Ended September 30, 2015
(\$ million)

Line No.	Particulars	Approved (2)	Actual (3)	Variance (4)	Ref. (5)
1	Heritage Deferral Account				
2	Cost of Energy - Heritage	168.3	52.0	(116.3)	
3	Notional Water Rental (Displaced Hydro)	(2.6)	(1.7)	0.9	Note 1
4	Skagit Valley Treaty & Ancillary Revenue	(5.5)	(7.8)	(2.3)	
5	Costs in Operating / Amortization	6.4	6.4	(0.0)	Note 2
6	Deferred Operating Costs in HDA	-	0.2	0.2	Note 3
7	Other	21.3	21.6	0.3	Note 4
8	Total	<u>187.8</u>	<u>70.7</u>	<u>(117.2)</u>	Schedule A Line 1
9					
10	Non-Heritage Deferral Account				
11	Cost of Energy - Non-Heritage	490.7	611.5	120.9	
12	Commodity Risk	-	(0.2)	(0.2)	Note 5
13	Notional Water Rental (Displaced Hydro)	2.6	1.7	(0.9)	Note 1
14	Domestic Revenue Variance	-	93.8	93.8	Note 6
15	Burrard Decommissioning Costs	-	1.9	1.9	Note 7
16	Other	-	(23.5)	(23.5)	Note 8
17	Total	<u>493.3</u>	<u>685.2</u>	<u>192.0</u>	Schedule A Line 2
18					
19	Trade Income Deferral Account				
20	Powerex Net Income/(Loss)			58.3	Note 9
21	Less: Trade Income from the Approved F15-F16 RRA			<u>(65.7)</u>	
22	Total			<u>7.4</u>	Schedule A Line 3

Note 1: Notional water rentals (Displaced Hydro) relates to water rentals associated with trade income. The notional water rental mechanism is described in the response to BCUC IR 1.2.36 dated January 23, 2004. The transactions relating to the notional water rental are eliminated on consolidation and there is no net impact on the combined HDA and NHDA as the transactions are mirrored within each account.

Note 2: Costs associated with compensation and mitigation efforts to fund fish and wildlife programs, Water Use Plan amortization, and Water Use Plan license costs were reclassified from cost of energy to other line items on the financial statements under IFRS. Since the nature of these costs has not changed, they continue to be treated as Heritage cost of energy for deferral accounting purposes, pursuant to Schedule A of Appendix A in Special Direction No. 7 regarding the Heritage Payment Obligation.

Note 3: Deferred Operating Costs in HDA includes a variance of \$0.2 million related to the costs associated with maintaining water use plan licenses.

Note 4: Other amounts in the Heritage Payment Obligation include the amortization of unplanned deferred capital costs related to First Nations as per Commission Order No. G-53-02. The YTD F2016 variance is \$0.3 million.

Note 5: Commodity Risk of (\$0.2) million consists of gains/losses on intercompany transactions that are offset by corresponding transactions in the TIDA. There is no net impact on the combined NHDA and TIDA balances due to these transactions.

Note 6: Domestic Revenue Variance (\$ million)	Approved	Actual	Variance
Residential	762.1	702.1	60.0
Light industrial and commercial	776.1	785.9	(9.8)
Large industrial	402.9	357.4	45.5
Other energy sales	44.0	46.0	(2.0)
Domestic Revenue Variance deferred in NHDA (Line 14)	<u>1,985.1</u>	<u>1,891.4</u>	<u>93.8</u>

Load Variance: as per Directive 5 of the F15-F16 RRRRA Decision per Commission Order No. G-48-14, BC Hydro is allowed to continue to defer in the NHDA the variances between the actual and forecast cost of energy arising from differences between forecast and actual domestic customer load. The net cost of energy variance due to domestic customer load is calculated by adding the domestic revenue variance (Line 14) to the gross cost of energy variance (Line 2 + Line 11) as shown below.

Gross Cost of Energy Variance ((116.3) + 120.9)	4.6
Domestic Revenue Variance	93.8
Net Cost of Energy deferred	<u>98.3</u>

Note 7: Deferred Operating Costs in the NHDA includes \$1.9 million incurred in YTD in F2016 as Burrard Costs as defined in Special Direction No. 7 of the F15-F16 RRRRA Decision and approved in Commission Order No. G-48-14. The \$1.9 million of Burrard Costs include \$0.4 million incurred as deferred operating costs and \$1.5 million incurred as deferred amortization expense.

Note 8: Other amounts deferred in the NHDA include (\$15.5) million related to an EPA that achieved commercial operations during the period. As the EPA was originally planned as a finance lease but is now being accounted for as an operating lease it would have resulted in a favorable increase to net income of \$15.5 million. As a result of the change in accounting treatment, BC Hydro deferred the favorable variance as Other in the NHDA, with the ratepayer receiving the benefit of the favourable variance. Also included is (\$8.0) million deferred as per Order No. G-16-11, in which the Commission approved the deferral of the difference between forecast and actual transmission service net costs into the NHDA. The variance from the corresponding intercompany entry on Powerex's financial statements is deferred via the TIDA. Total transmission service net costs deferred of (\$8.0) million consists of a variance of (\$8.4) million on PTP wheeling charges with Powerex (via Intersegment Revenues) and a variance of \$0.4 million on External OATT revenues (via Miscellaneous Revenues).

Note 9: Powerex net income reported for regulatory purposes is net of \$1.5 million YTD corporate overhead allocation from BC Hydro to Powerex in accordance with Directive 9 of the F09/F10 RRA Decision.

Due to minor rounding some totals may not add.

Appendix 1

Deferral Account Rules

The following “rules” are used by BC Hydro for providing clarity in determining the deferral account transfers. These rules are derived from BC Hydro’s interpretation of the evidence and testimony provided during the F2005/F2006 Revenue Requirement Application (**RRA**) proceeding and in response to Commission Directive No. 19 of the October 29, 2004 Decision. These rules have been updated for the F07/F08 RRA Negotiated Settlement Agreement (**NSA**) and Directives included in the F09/F10 RRA Decision, the F11 RRA NSA, Commission’s Decision on the F12-F14 RRA as per Commission Order No. G-77-12A, and Commission’s issuance of Order No. G-48-14 related to Direction Nos. 6 and 7 issued from the Province to the Commission in regards to BC Hydro’s F15-F16 RRA.

Where a footnote is shown, the referenced language is from the noted Commission decision. Where a footnote is not shown (e.g., the bullet points), the language represents BC Hydro’s interpretation of the evidence and testimony noted above.

Heritage Deferral Account (HDA)

Commission Decision, October 29, 2004, Page 41:

Commission Findings

The Commission Panel approves the HDA as proposed by BC Hydro, and approves BC Hydro's forecast of the cost components of the HPO for F2005 and F2006.

Variances between the forecast and the actual cost for the following components of the Heritage Payment Obligation will flow through the HDA:

1. Cost of energy¹

This item is expanded in greater detail below to provide clarification on the methodology used to determine variances:

- Gains/losses on energy derivatives and financial instruments used to minimize energy costs are included as part of total energy costs;
- The total Heritage Energy (including Skagit/Seattle City Light commitments) is limited to 49,000 GWh in terms of the Heritage contract. If the Heritage Energy including 100 per cent of market electricity purchases exceeds the Heritage Energy limit, the excess purchases are transferred to Non-Heritage Energy in order to reduce the Heritage Energy volumes to the Heritage Contract limit;
- Variances resulting from changes to compensation and mitigation costs, water rental remissions, or Skagit energy transportation contracts are eligible for deferral. These are price variances as they do not vary with volume; and
- All load curtailment costs are to be included as part of the Heritage Payment Obligation and variance between Actual and Plan is to be included in the HDA.²

2. Variable costs related to thermal generation.¹

3. Significant unplanned major maintenance costs greater than \$1 million related to single event equipment or infrastructure failure or caused by weather related events.¹

4. Significant unplanned major capital expenditures having an incremental annual impact on the Income Statement greater than \$1 million related to single event equipment or infrastructure failure or caused by weather related events.¹

5. Amortization of unplanned deferred capital costs pursuant to Commission Order No. G-53-02.¹

6. All net revenues from surplus hydro electricity sales.³

¹ Per F05/F06 RRA Decision Directive 11, amended by the F09F/10 RRA Decision, Directive 31, as confirmed by Direction 7, section 7(a).

² Per F09/F10 RRA Decision, Directive 30.

³ Per F05/F06 RRA Decision, Directive 11.

7. Skagit Valley Treaty revenues and ancillary services revenues.³
8. An interest charge/credit⁴ is to be calculated on the ending monthly balance in each deferral account. The interest rate used is BC Hydro's actual weighted cost of debt for its current fiscal year as approved effective April 1, 2011.⁵

⁴ Per F05/F06 RRA Decision Directive 18, amended by the F07/F08 RRA Negotiated Settlement Agreement.
⁵ Per F12-F14 RRA Decision, Commission Order No. G-77-12A, Directive 1 (xxv).

Non-Heritage Deferral Account (NHDA)

Commission Decision, October 29, 2004, Page 41:

Commission Findings

The Commission Panel approves all elements of the NHDA, except the distribution emergency restoration costs elements, item 4, because it can be forecast with some confidence, unlike unplanned major capital expenditures and unplanned major maintenance expenditures, and because of risk/reward considerations. Given the denial of item 4 of the NHDA, item 3 of the NHDA is to be as set forth in Final Argument. The Commission Panel approves BC Hydro's forecast of the NHDA non-HPO cost of energy for F2005 and F2006.

Variances between the forecast and the actual cost for the following components of the Non-Heritage Cost of Energy will flow through the NHDA:

1. Cost of energy - all non-HPO energy costs.⁶ This item is expanded in greater detail below to provide clarification on the methodology used to determine variances:
 - Any variances relating to fixed price gas transportation contracts would flow through the deferral accounts as they do not vary with volume;
 - Future Trade: when Powerex purchases energy for future trade the cost of the purchase from the external party and the sale to BC Hydro of this energy is recorded in Powerex and is included as part of Trade Income. The BC Hydro side of the entry is shown as part of domestic energy costs (on consolidation, the Powerex revenue from BC Hydro and the BC Hydro energy costs from Powerex are eliminated). The difference between Actual and Plan on the BC Hydro side relating to energy for future trade flows through the Non-Heritage Deferral Account. The Powerex side of the transaction, which is part of Trade Income, flows through the Trade Income Deferral Account. Similar treatment is made when the energy is returned to Powerex;
 - Future Trade: when Powerex purchases energy for future trade, the Heritage Payment Obligation (HPO) is charged with a notional water rental charge for the use of this energy. The other side of this entry is shown as part of Non-Heritage energy. These entries are eliminated on consolidation. The difference between the Actual and Plan notional water rentals that is part of the HPO flows through the Heritage Deferral Account. The opposite variance relating to the Non-Heritage side of the notional water rental transaction flows through the Non-Heritage Deferral Account; and
 - Gains/losses on energy derivatives and financial instruments used to minimize energy costs are included as part of total energy costs.
2. Significant unplanned major maintenance costs greater than \$1 million related to single event equipment or infrastructure failure.⁶
3. Significant unplanned major capital expenditures having an incremental annual impact on the Income Statement greater than \$1 million related to single event equipment or infrastructure failure or caused by weather related events.⁶

⁶ Per F05/F06 RRA Decision, Directive 12, amended by F09F/10 RRA Decision, Directive 31, as confirmed by Direction 7, section 7 (c)(i).

4. Founding Partner Benefits and any CIS Credits under the ABS Contract.⁶
5. Impact of load variance.⁷
 - The Net Cost of Energy deferral amount is calculated by subtracting the Gross Load Variance and adding the Net Load Variance to the Gross Cost of Energy deferral amount. In practice, because Net Load Variance equals Gross Load Variance less Domestic Revenue Variance, the Net Cost of Energy Deferral simplifies to the Gross Cost of Energy Deferral minus the Domestic Revenue Variance.
6. Costs incurred by the authority in F2014 or a later fiscal year arising from the decommissioning of the Burrard Thermal Plant that are not required for transmission support services, including employee retention costs, penalties or damages that arise as a result of the decommissioning, and the net increase in amortization expense in F2015 and F2016.⁸
7. An interest charge/credit⁹ is to be calculated on the ending monthly balance in each deferral account. The interest rate used is BC Hydro's actual weighted cost of debt for its current fiscal year as approved effective April 1, 2011.¹⁰

⁷ F09/F10 RRA Decision, Directive 31 and F12-F14 RRA Decision, Commission Order No. G-77-12A, Directive 1 (ix).

⁸ Pursuant to Commission Order No. G-48-14 Directive 6 and Direction No. 7 to the Commission, section 7 (c)(ii).

⁹ Per F05/F06 RRA Decision Directive 18, amended by the F07/F08 RRA Negotiated Settlement Agreement.

¹⁰ Per F12-F14 RRA Decision, Commission Order No. G-77-12A, Directive 1 (xxv).

Trade Income Deferral Account (TIDA)

Commission Decision, October 29, 2004, Page 42, Section 4.6:

Commission Findings

The Commission Panel approves the TIDA as proposed by BC Hydro, and approves BC Hydro's forecast of Trade Income for F2005 and F2006.

- Under Direction No. 7 to the Commission, which continues the essential elements of the Heritage Contract framework formerly enshrined in Heritage Special Direction HC2, for F2015 and future years, any variance between the forecast Trade Income and the actual Trade Income will flow through the TIDA, except where Annual Trade Income is below zero;¹¹
- Actual Trade Income is determined by excluding the impact on BC Hydro's consolidated net income due to foreign currency translation gains and losses on intercompany balances between BC Hydro and Powerex Corp. The "floor" of zero in the definition of Trade Income was removed for F2014 and reinstated for F2015 and future years;¹¹ and
- An interest charge/credit¹² is to be calculated on the ending monthly balance in each deferral account. The interest rate used is BC Hydro's actual weighted cost of debt for its current fiscal year as approved effective April 1, 2011.¹³

¹¹ Refer to Heritage Special Direction No. HC2 and Direction No. 7 to the Commission – definition of "Trade Income".

¹² Per F05/F06 RRA Decision Directive 18, amended by the F07/F08 RRA Negotiated Settlement Agreement.

¹³ Per F12-F14 RRA Decision, Commission Order No. G-77-12A, Directive 1 (xxv).