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VIA E-MAIL

May 5, 2009

SECTION 5

TRANSMISSION INQUIRY

EXHIBIT A-8

To: Long-Term Transmission Inquiry Participants

Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission
Project No. 3698545/Order G-30-09
Inquiry into British Columbia's Long-Term Transmission Infrastructure

Interim Funding of Participant Assistance/Cost Awards (PACA)

At the Pre-Hearing Conference of April 27, 2009 several participants raised concerns related to the ability of many participants to fund their involvement in the Long Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry, particularly in view of the expected term of the Inquiry until at least mid-2010. The Commission Panel has determined that interim cost awards will be made consistent with Order No. G-72-07 for assistance required up to and including the next Procedural Conference on Scoping of Issues, to be held on June 24, 2009. The rates of payment for consultancy, legal services and disbursements are set out in the Commission's Participant Assistance Cost Award ("PACA") Guidelines attached to Order G-72-07 (available on the BCUC website at www.bcuc.com).

The Commission Panel will entertain requests for interim awards, and requests that budget estimates be submitted by May 22, 2009 to cover the period up to June 24, 2009. These estimates should include costs related to preparation and participation in the Inquiry to date, including the workshop on April 17, 2009 and the Pre-Hearing Conference on April 27, 2009. Interim awards will be made as deemed appropriate by the Commission Panel upon application by the participant after June 24, 2009.

Once the scope of Inquiry issues has been established after the June 24, 2009 Procedural Conference, the Commission Panel will consider whether some form of Alternative PACA Guidelines will be in order for the remainder of the Inquiry, including further payment of Interim Awards. Any alternative guidelines might give recognition to the different nature of the Inquiry, the complexity of the issues, the likely range of participants, the likely locations of meetings and conferences, and the protracted time frame involved. Once a decision is made, the Commission will issue a notice to all registered Participants.

Yours truly,

Original signed by:

Erica M. Hamilton

JWF/dg

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