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INFO RELEASE – BCUC Issues Decision on BC Hydro Application to Amend the Net Metering Program

VANCOUVER – By [Order G-168-20](#), the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) has issued its final decision on British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority's (BC Hydro) application to amend the Net Metering Program. BC Hydro submitted an application to the BCUC on April 29, 2019, with proposed changes to the Net Metering Program that included, among other things, updating the compensation calculation for customers who generate surplus energy and limiting the size of a customer's generator to their approximate annual load.

The BCUC established an independent, transparent and public process to review the application, which included feedback from 18 registered interveners, who had the opportunity to file written evidence, submit and respond to information requests, and submit final arguments, and 14 interested parties. The BCUC also received over 280 letters of comment from members of the public and interested parties.

The BCUC carefully considered the evidence, arguments, and letters of comment received before making its determinations, which include:

- 1) Approval to amend the Energy Price from 9.99 cents per kilowatt hour to an amount that would be updated every January 1 based on the value of energy to BC Hydro, calculated by using the daily average Mid-Columbia prices for the previous calendar year.
- 2) Approval of a transitional period where all customers accepted into the Net Metering Program as of April 28, 2019 be eligible to receive the Energy Price of 9.99 cents per kilowatt hour for any surplus energy payments made from April 29, 2019 until April 30, 2024.
- 3) Rejection of a proposal to limit the electricity a customer's generator can produce to not exceed 110 percent of the customer's annual load.
- 4) Approval to assign all Net Metering customers a March 1 default Anniversary Date with one opportunity to choose an alternative date thereafter.

BC Hydro is also directed to submit an evaluation report on the Net Metering Program by no later than October 31, 2020. The evaluation report should include customer feedback about the program, consultation with stakeholders regarding marginal cost pricing and virtual net metering, and areas for further improvements.

More information about this application is available [here](#).

Background

BC Hydro's Net Metering Program was designed for customers who install generation on their own property to provide electricity to serve all or part of their electricity needs. When customers generate more electricity than they need, the surplus electricity is banked in their account and then applied as a credit for when they do not generate enough electricity to meet their needs. Once every 12 months, customers with credits remaining receive a payment from BC Hydro for those remaining credits.

About the BCUC

The BCUC is a regulatory agency responsible for oversight of energy utilities and compulsory auto insurance in British Columbia. It is the BCUC's role to balance the interests of customers with the interests of the businesses it regulates. The BCUC carries out fair and transparent reviews of matters within its jurisdiction and considers public input where public interest is impacted.

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