



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER G-1-16**

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250
VANCOUVER, BC V6Z 2N3 CANADA
web site: <http://www.bcuc.com>

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

the British Columbia Utilities Commission
Rules of Practice and Procedure

BEFORE: L. F. Kelsey, Commissioner
K. A. Keilty, Commissioner December 24, 2015
D. M. Morton, Commissioner
H. G. Harowitz, Commissioner

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On June 30 and August 27, 2015, draft Rules of Practice and Procedure were provided to stakeholders and posted on the British Columbia Utilities Commission's (BCUC, Commission) website for comment;
- B. The following parties provided comments in one or more rounds of the consultative process thereby contributing to the final Rules of Practice and Procedure :
1. Association of Major Power Customers of BC
 2. Insurance Corporation of BC
 3. FortisBC Utilities
 4. BC Hydro and Power Authority
 5. BC Old Age Pensioners' Organization et al
 6. Flintoff, D.
 7. Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.
 8. BC Sustainable Energy Association and Sierra Club of BC
 9. Commercial Energy Consumers
 10. Silversmith Light and Power
 11. Clean Energy Association of BC
 12. Landale, R.
- C. The final Rules of Practice and Procedure provide guidance and establish requirements for persons participating in matters before the Commission, and the content of such would supersede the following guidelines or practice directives:
1. Document Filing Protocols – Applicant
 2. Document Filing Protocols – Participant

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER G-1-16**

2

3. Confidential Filing Practice Directive

- D. The final Rules of Practice and Procedure incorporate many of the diverse views and interests of stakeholders while balancing efficiency creation with stability of status quo, and the Commission finds that these final Rules of Practice and Procedure should be adopted.

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with section 2(4) of the *Utilities Commission Act* and section 11 of the *Administrative Tribunals Act*, the Commission adopts the Rules of Practice and Procedure attached to this order, effective January 15, 2016.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 7th day of January 2016.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D. M. Morton
BCUC Chairperson

Attachment

**BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION
RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE**

Table of Contents

1.0	PART I – GENERAL	1
1	Application of the rules	1
2	Interpretation of the rules	1
3	Definitions	1
4	Rules of Practice and Procedure	2
5	Personal information collection and/or distribution	3
6	Failure to comply	3
2.0	PART II – PARTICIPATION IN A PROCEEDING	3
7	Interested parties	3
8	Letters of comment	4
9	Requests for intervener status in a proceeding	5
10	Participation of interveners	7
3.0	PART III – DOCUMENT FILING	7
11	Filing and service of documents	7
12	Documents filed by applicants	8
13	Information requests	9
14	Responses to information requests	10
15	Commission procedures for documents filed in a proceeding	11
4.0	PART IV – CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS	12
16	Application and availability of the Rules	12
17	Information collection and/or distribution	12
18	Requests for confidentiality	12
19	Hearings to consider confidentiality of documents	13
20	Decisions made by the Commission regarding confidentiality	13
21	Documents accepted as confidential	13
22	Documents not accepted as confidential	14
23	Filing confidential documents	14
24	Requests for access to confidential documents in a proceeding	14

1.0 PART I – GENERAL

1 Application of the rules

Any person engaged in any matter before the Commission must follow all rules, guidelines and practice directives that are issued by the Commission.

2 Interpretation of the rules

These rules must be liberally construed in the public interest to ensure the fairest, most expeditious and efficient determination of every matter before the Commission consistent in all cases with the requirements of procedural fairness.

3 Definitions

In these rules:

- (a) “applicant” means a person who makes an application;
- (b) “application” means an application to the Commission for an approval, licence, order or other relief under the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) or any other enactment;
- (c) “Commission” means the British Columbia Utilities Commission;
- (d) “Commission’s website” means the website maintained by the Commission at www.bcuc.com;
- (e) “document” includes written documentation, films, photographs, charts, maps, plans, graphs, surveys, books of account, transcripts, emails, information stored by means of an electronic storage and retrieval system, electronic files and video and audio recordings, whether filed as evidence, submissions to, applications or correspondence with the Commission;
- (f) “eFiling system” means the Commission’s regulatory electronic filing system that is accessible on the Commission’s website;
- (g) “evidentiary record” means all documents, including evidence and submissions, filed in connection with a proceeding whether filed prior to, or during, the proceeding. The public evidentiary record, found on the Commission’s website, does not include documents that are subject to a confidentiality order of the Commission;
- (h) “file” means to submit documents to the Commission Secretary either electronically via the eFiling system, or, if participating non-electronically, by mail, courier or personal delivery;
- (i) “hearing” means a hearing before the Commission and includes an oral hearing and a written hearing as well as a streamlined review process and a hearing regarding a negotiated settlement process;

- (j) “information request,” also referred to as an “interrogatory,” means a request that an applicant, intervener, Commission staff or panel may make of a party to elicit information on the evidentiary record that is relevant to the issues to be considered by the Commission in the proceeding;
- (k) “interested party” means a person who has registered online to receive immediate automated electronic notification of all documents filed as part of a proceeding’s public evidentiary record but who does not have the participation rights of an intervener in the proceeding;
- (l) “intervener” means a person who has been granted intervener status in a proceeding by the Commission.
- (m) “party” means an applicant, intervener, interested party or other person who has been permitted according to these rules to participate in a proceeding. Party does not include panel members or Commission staff independent of the proceeding team except where staff participation has been allowed by the Commission, such as is outlined in the Negotiated Settlement Guidelines;
- (n) “person” includes an individual, as well as an incorporated or unincorporated organization such as a corporation, partnership or duly constituted public group;
- (o) “proceeding” means a process to decide a matter either initiated by or brought before the Commission, including a matter commenced by application, transfer and direction, or inquiry and may result in adjudication or a report;
- (p) “register online” means submitting a completed online registration form with the Commission in order to log into the eFiling system and/or to receive electronic notification of all non-confidential evidence filed by parties for the Commission’s consideration in a particular proceeding;
- (q) “regulatory timetable” means the timetable that is established for the proceeding by the Commission;
- (r) “representative” means the agent of or solicitor for a party;
- (s) “rules” means these Rules of Practice and Procedure.

4 Rules of Practice and Procedure

- 4.01 In accordance with sections 2(4) and 4(1) of the UCA, and sections 11(1) and (2) of the *Administrative Tribunals Act* (ATA), the Commission adopts these rules and will decide the most appropriate and effective management of its resources and the ordering of its proceedings.
- 4.02 Notwithstanding the procedures provided for in the rules, the Commission may do whatever is appropriate and permitted by law to enable it to effectively and completely adjudicate the matter before it.
- 4.03 In accordance with the *Administrative Tribunals Act*, the Commission may waive or modify one or more of its rules in exceptional circumstances.

- 4.04 The rules are available for examination on the Commission’s website, or upon request from the Commission Secretary.

5 Personal information collection and/or distribution

- 5.01 The Commission is authorized by sections 26(c), 33 and 33.1(r)(ii) and (iii) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) to collect and publish a person’s personal information in a matter before the Commission if necessary.
- 5.02 Subject to FOIPPA and the rules in Part V – Confidential Documents, all documents filed in respect to a proceeding must be placed on the public evidentiary record. If a party wishes to keep any information in a document confidential, the party must submit a request for confidentiality to the Commission at the time of filing, in a manner consistent with Part V of these rules.
- 5.03 Any questions regarding the Commission’s collection of personal information can be directed to the Commission Secretary at commission.secretary@bcuc.com, or Box 250, 900 Howe Street, 6th Floor, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3.

6 Failure to comply

- 6.01 If a party fails to comply with the Commission’s rules, guidelines or practice directives, the Commission may take steps it considers reasonable including, but not limited to, withdrawing the status of the party.
- 6.02 If a party fails to comply with a time limit or filing protocol specified in the rules or by the Commission, the Commission may disregard the party’s document.
- 6.03 No proceeding is invalid by reason alone of an irregularity in form.

2.0 PART II – PARTICIPATION IN A PROCEEDING

7 Interested parties

- 7.01 A person who wishes to participate as an interested party must register online via the Commission’s website using the “Interested Party” online registration form.
- 7.02 An interested party’s name is included on the evidentiary record and made public on the Commission’s website.
- 7.03 An interested party may file a letter of comment in the proceeding, in accordance with these rules, but cannot otherwise participate in the hearing.

- 7.04 A letter of comment filed by an interested party will not be automatically accorded more weight by the Commission than letters of comment submitted by persons who are not parties to the hearing.
- 7.05 By registering online, interested parties will receive automated email notifications of all documents posted by the Commission to the proceeding's webpage.
- 7.06 To unsubscribe from the email notifications or to change status, an interested party must submit a Request to Change Party's Preferences Form via email to commission.secretary@bcuc.com or via mail, courier or personal delivery to Commission Secretary, Box 250, 900 Howe Street, 6th Floor, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2N3.

8 Letters of comment

- 8.01 Letters of comment are intended to provide for any member of the public to contribute views, opinions, and impact or potential impact, with respect to a matter before the Commission, to a public record.
- 8.01.1 Due to their active participation in a proceeding and adherence to an established regulatory timetable, interveners are not permitted to file letters of comment, unless requested or otherwise permitted by the Commission. If an intervener files a letter of comment, the Commission may disallow the letter of comment unless the intervener requests to change standing.
- 8.02 Letters of comment must be in the Letter of Comment Form and be submitted by email to commission.secretary@bcuc.com or, by mail, courier or personal delivery to Commission Secretary, Box 250, 900 Howe Street, 6th Floor, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2N3.
- 8.03 A letter of comment must:
- (a) describe the nature of the person's interest in the proceeding;
 - (b) state the person's views regarding the proceeding; including any relevant information that is useful in supporting or explaining the views; and
 - (c) not contain confidential information.
- 8.04 The Commission will include the author's name and contact information on the proceeding's evidentiary record but will remove all personal contact information, except for the author's name, before publication on the Commission's website.
- 8.05 Letters of comment are not automatically accorded the same weight as evidence that has been either adopted under oath, subject to information requests or otherwise tested.
- 8.06 In the interests of fairness and/or efficiency, the Commission may limit persons to one letter of comment.

- 8.07 The Commission may disallow any letters of comment that contain vulgar language, personal attacks or offensive terms or that do not follow the rules.
- 8.08 Letters of comment must be received by the Commission by the last date included in the proceeding's regulatory timetable before final arguments, unless the Commission directs otherwise. Letters of comment that are received late will not be considered by the Commission in the proceeding.
- 8.09 Submitting a letter of comment does not enable persons to otherwise participate in a hearing or reconsideration proceeding.

9 Requests for intervener status in a proceeding

- 9.01 To request intervener status, a person must complete and submit a Request to Intervene Form via email to commission.secretary@bcuc.com, or via mail, courier or personal delivery to Commission Secretary, Box 250, 900 Howe Street, 6th Floor, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2N3.
- 9.02 Requests for intervener status must be received by the Commission by the filing deadline established in the regulatory timetable for the proceeding.
- 9.03 The Commission, in its discretion, may allow late requests for intervener status. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, once a late request for intervener status is accepted, the late intervener may only participate from that point onward in the proceeding.
- 9.04 Persons requesting intervener status must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commission that they are directly or sufficiently affected by the Commission's decision, or that they have experience, information, or expertise relevant to a matter before the Commission that would contribute to the Commission's decision-making.
- 9.05 Persons requesting intervener status who are not individuals or Commission regulated entities must submit both:
- (a) a completed Request to Intervene Form, and
 - (b) an informational document (as a single PDF) that includes:
 - (i) a description of the organization's mandate and objectives;
 - (ii) a description of its membership, including the membership processes if any, and the constituency it represents;
 - (iii) the types of programs and/or activities it carries out;
 - (iv) the identities of any authorized representatives and addresses; and
 - (v) any other information the Commission may request.

- 9.05.1 The information provided in the informational document must be current, accurate and filed in accordance with the rules respecting document filing. Any material changes to the information contained in the informational document must be filed with the Commission as soon as possible.
- 9.05.2 If the request to intervene is accepted, the Commission will retain the informational document for a period of twelve (12) months from the date it is filed and may refer to it during that time, when appropriate.
- 9.05.3 If an informational document has been filed with the Commission within the past twelve (12) months, a person who is not an individual or a Commission regulated entity must only submit a Request to Intervene Form for each proceeding in which it intends to participate as an intervener and indicate on the form that it has already submitted an informational document.
- 9.05.4 Twelve (12) months after the date an informational document was filed, a person who is not an individual or a Commission regulated entity is required to submit an updated informational document with its next request to intervene.
- 9.06 The Commission may refuse a request for intervener status for reasons, including but not limited to, that the request:
- (a) is frivolous, or vexatious;
 - (b) does not meet the requirements in section 9.04;
 - (c) is irrelevant or is not in response to issues addressed in the particular proceeding; or
 - (d) is not filed in accordance with the rules.
- 9.07 The Commission may grant intervener status subject to conditions it considers appropriate.
- 9.08 The Commission may determine the scope of an intervener's participation considering, for example, the person's interest, and the nature, importance and breadth of issues the person plans to address.
- 9.09 When a request to intervene is accepted, the Commission will send the intervener a link to register online. Online registration enables an intervener to submit documents via the eFiling system, and to receive automated email notifications of all the documents posted to the website in regard to the proceeding.
- 9.10 If accepted and if the intervener has participated in a proceeding in the past twelve (12) months and already has a username, the Commission will send the intervener an email stating that the Commission has added the user to the proceeding.

10 Participation of interveners

- 10.01 Interveners are expected to participate actively, responsibly and respectfully for the duration of the proceeding.
- 10.02 Interveners are expected to take reasonable efforts to avoid the duplication of evidence.
- 10.03 The Commission encourages and may require an intervener to coordinate with other interveners who represent substantially similar interests.
- 10.04 If the Commission holds a reconsideration, the interveners in the original proceeding will be notified and permitted to be interveners in the reconsideration. Any person who was not an intervener in the original proceeding but who wishes to intervene in the reconsideration can make such request in accordance with rules pertaining to requests for intervener status in a proceeding.

3.0 PART III – DOCUMENT FILING

11 Filing and service of documents

- 11.01 Documents, including applications and notices of appeal, should be filed in such quantity and in such manner as may be specified by the Commission. Correspondence must be addressed to the Commission Secretary. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, evidence and submissions must be filed under cover letters addressed to the Commission Secretary.
- 11.02 Filings must be submitted on or before a specified filing date, if applicable.
- 11.03 All documents filed in a proceeding, with the exception of documents the Commission deems confidential, may be accessed through the Commission's website.
- 11.04 Any person wishing to access an evidentiary record of any proceeding not published online, or wishing to access an evidentiary record in hard copy, may make arrangements to do so with the Commission Secretary in accordance with access and privacy rules and legislation.
- 11.05 Parties must file all documents electronically via the eFiling system as a file attachment in unprotected .pdf, .doc, .xls, or Rich Text Format (RTF) and, if applicable, must clearly display the name of the proceeding in the file name and in the document.
 - 11.05.1 Documents must not contain symbols or quotation marks (e.g., "\$#&!@) in the file name otherwise the document will open as a blank file and the Commission will consider the document not received.

- 11.05.2 Parties who do not have reasonable access to internet or email, or who have no reasonable means to convert an unsupported electronic document into a supported format may file the document in paper copy via mail, courier, personal delivery or any other means directed by the Commission (Box 250, 900 Howe Street, 6th Floor, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2N3).
- 11.06 Whether filed electronically or non-electronically, documents must be received by the Commission by the specified filing date, if applicable, unless otherwise directed by the Commission.
- 11.06.1 Arrangements may be made with the Commission Secretary for evidence that cannot reasonably be filed in paper, such as video or recorded evidence.
- 11.07 Documents filed non-electronically must be complete and identical to the electronic copy.
- 11.08 The assignment of an exhibit number to a document does not prevent other parties from challenging its admissibility. If the Commission rules a document inadmissible, the document and its exhibit letter and number will be expunged from the record.
- 11.09 The Commission's website will send an automated email to all parties who have registered online when a document has been posted to the evidentiary record posted on the Commission's website.
- 11.10 The Commission considers a document to be served on a party once it is added to the Commission's evidentiary record and posted on the Commission's website. For parties that participate by mail, the Commission considers documents to be served after two (2) business days of being sent if couriered or five (5) business days if regular mail was used.
- 11.11 If a party files a document during an oral phase of a hearing, the document must be filed with the hearing officer who will assign it an exhibit number, ensure sufficient paper copies are distributed to the other parties, and upload an electronic copy to the Commission's website. Once the oral phase of a hearing is completed, parties must resume filing documentation in accordance with the rules. The list of exhibits for each proceeding can be located on the Commission's website.

12 Documents filed by applicants

- 12.01 All documents with respect to a current proceeding are to contain the Project Number assigned to the proceeding by the Commission, as the first item in the Subject Line, if applicable.
- 12.02 Documents must be filed in an unprotected PDF searchable format. Where possible, each exhibit document (e.g. applications, information requests, information request responses) must

be submitted as one (1) PDF document, including cover letter and attachments. Documents must clearly display the name of the proceeding in the file name.

- 12.03 Applicants are required to register online. The applicant's registered User ID and password must be used to log on to the eFiling system in order to upload and submit documents.
- 12.04 If a document exceeds 50 MB, the document must be posted to the applicant's website before filing, and a link to download the document from the applicant's website is required with the applicant's filing. If applicable, and the applicant does not maintain a website, it must contact the Commission Secretary to make alternate arrangements.
- 12.05 If an applicant's document is over one hundred (100) pages, five (5) paper copies must be couriered to the Commission within three (3) business days following the date of the electronic filing, unless the Commission advises otherwise.
- 12.06 The Commission may require the applicant to mail or courier paper copies of documents it issues to interveners who do not have reasonable access to internet or email.

13 Information requests

- 13.01 In an information request, the Commission, applicant or intervener may request another party within the time limit set by the Commission, to provide information necessary
- (a) to clarify any documentary evidence filed by the other party;
 - (b) to facilitate a better understanding of the issues relevant to the proceeding; or
 - (c) to assist with the resolution of the proceeding.
- 13.02 An information request must:
- (a) be issued by the Commission, applicant or intervener in accordance with a Commission order;
 - (b) be directed to the party from whom a response is sought, unless the Commission otherwise orders;
 - (c) contain specific questions seeking information or documents that are relevant to the proceeding and in the possession of the responding party;
 - (d) be filed in accordance with rules pertaining to document filing, unless otherwise directed by the Commission;
 - (e) group questions together according to the issue to which they relate;
 - (f) be numbered using a continuous numbering system; and
 - (g) set out the date on which the information request is filed.

13.03 To the extent practicable, information requests should cite the volume, tab and page number of the evidence to which it refers.

13.04 To the extent practicable, parties should not knowingly duplicate other parties' information requests.

14 Responses to information requests

14.01 Subject to these rules, a party who is served with an information request must provide a full and adequate response to each question.

14.02 A response to an information request must:

- (a) be filed in accordance with rules pertaining to document filing, as applicable, unless directed otherwise by the Commission;
- (b) repeat each substantive question at the beginning of each response but not include the full set of questions at the front of the response;
- (c) number the responses using the same numbering system as in the information request;
- (d) identify the appropriate individual(s) in the cover letter who can be contacted for information related to the information request responses; and
- (e) where a response to an individual question is responded to by persons other than the party to whom the information request is directed (i.e. a consultant, expert or other third party, etc.) as part of the response, identify, where appropriate, the person(s) responding to that question.

14.03 A response to an information request should:

- (a) for PDF form documents or Word documents, utilize the bookmark functionality of those formats to bookmark each group of issues as identified in the original information request;
- (b) set out the date on which the response is filed.

14.04 If a party who is served with an information request is not able or not willing to prepare a full and adequate response, the party must do one of the following:

- (a) If the party considers an information request unclear:
 - (i) it is incumbent upon that party to make reasonable efforts to contact the requestor to clarify the question and respond in accordance with the deadline for information request responses; and
 - (ii) where clarification cannot be obtained in a timely manner, the party responding to the information request must state any assumptions made respecting the interpretation of the question.

- (b) If the party contends that the information required to answer the information request is not relevant, the party must:
 - (i) file a response that sets out specific reasons in support of that contention; and
 - (ii) file any portion of the response that the party does consider relevant.
- (c) if the party contends the information necessary to provide an answer is privileged, not available or cannot be provided with reasonable effort, file a response that:
 - (i) sets out the specific reasons in support of that contention, and
 - (ii) contains such other information that the party considers would be of assistance to the party making the information request that is available and can be provided with reasonable effort;
- (d) if the party contends that the information requested is confidential:
 - (i) file a request for confidentiality for all or any part of the response in accordance with the rules pertaining to confidential filings; and
 - (ii) where practicable, file other non-confidential information that the party considers would be of assistance to the party making the information request.

14.05 If a party fails to respond, or if a party, including Commission staff, is not satisfied with an information request response, a party may file a request that the matter be settled by the Commission.

15 Commission procedures for documents filed in a proceeding

- 15.01 Commission staff will assign an exhibit number to the document prior to posting. The following exhibit letters have been assigned to each participant grouping:
- “A” for Commission and Commission staff,
 - “B” for the applicant,
 - “C” for interveners, numbered sequentially in terms of order of receipt of the Notice of Intervention by the Commission with a sub-number assigned to each document filed by that intervener,
 - “D” for interested parties, and
 - “E” for letters of comment.
- 15.02 The Commission will scan and upload submissions to the proceeding’s exhibit list for parties who submit documents non-electronically due to not having reasonable access to the internet or email.
- 15.03 If an intervener reasonably requires paper copies of documents, the Commission may provide the intervener’s mailing information to the proceeding’s participants with a request that the intervener be served by mail. The Commission will mail paper copies of its documents to parties who demonstrate an inability to access the electronic public evidentiary record.

- 15.04 The Commission may require the applicant to make copies of the application available in local utility facilities, libraries or other locations.
- 15.05 Documents issued or received by the Commission will normally be posted to the proceeding's webpage within four (4) business hours of being received unless the document requires further review.

4.0 PART IV – CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

16 Application and availability of the Rules

These rules apply to all requests for confidentiality and confidential documents filed with the Commission in regard to any and all matters.

17 Information collection and/or distribution

- 17.01 Subject to the following, and to other related statutory provisions and exceptions or exclusions by law, including the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Utilities Commission Act* and the *Administrative Tribunals Act*, information filed by parties in a matter before the Commission will be placed on the evidentiary record and may be made publicly available.
- 17.02 For greater certainty, nothing in these rules is intended to limit the operation of any statutory provision that protects the confidentiality of information of documents.

18 Requests for confidentiality

- 18.01 If a party wishes to keep confidential any information in a document filed in any matter before the Commission, in addition to the document, at the time of filing, the party must file:
- (a) a request that all or any part of the document be held in confidence which must:
 - (i) briefly describe the nature of the information in the document and the reasons for the request for confidentiality, including the specific harm that could reasonably be expected to result if the document was made publicly available; and
 - (ii) indicate whether all or only a part of the document is the subject of the request; and
 - (b) a proposed redacted version of the document that the Commission may make publicly available, where possible.
- 18.02 The party requesting confidentiality bears the onus of establishing why the information should be treated as confidential by the Commission.

18.03 The request for confidentiality will be a matter of public record, unless the Commission directs otherwise.

19 Hearings to consider confidentiality of documents

19.01 The Commission may, with or without a hearing or further process, grant a request for confidentiality on any terms it considers appropriate.

19.02 Where the Commission holds a hearing to consider the request for confidentiality, the Commission may direct that the hearing be held in the absence of the public.

20 Decisions made by the Commission regarding confidentiality

20.01 In determining whether the nature of the information or documents require a confidentiality direction, the Commission will have regard to matters that it considers relevant, including:

- (a) whether the disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to result in:
 - (i) undue material financial loss or gain to a person, or
 - (ii) significant harm or prejudice to that person's competitive or negotiating position, or
 - (iii) harm to individual or public safety or to the environment;
- (b) whether the information is personal, financial, commercial, scientific, labour relations or technical information that is confidential and consistently treated as confidential by the person;
- (c) whether the person's interest in confidentiality outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of the information or documents in the hearing;
- (d) whether the person submitting the document has any legal obligation to maintain confidentiality; and
- (e) whether it is practicable to hold the hearing in a manner that is open to the public.

21 Documents accepted as confidential

21.01 If accepted by the Commission as confidential, the documents or the portions thereof will not be made publicly available.

21.02 If the document is accepted as confidential, the Commission may make the proposed redacted version of the confidential document publicly available, or may adjust or require the filing party to change the redaction in accordance with what it deems necessary for transparency and public interest.

- 21.03 A party may object to a request for confidentiality by filing an objection with reasons in a timely manner. The Commission will give the party claiming confidentiality, together with a person who may be affected by disclosure, an opportunity to reply to an objection.

22 Documents not accepted as confidential

- 22.01 If a document is filed confidentially and the request for confidentiality is denied, the Commission may allow the person that submitted the documents an opportunity to make submissions as to what should be done with the document, such as withdrawing the document.

23 Filing confidential documents

- 23.01 Rules respecting confidential documents are to be considered also in accordance with Rules pertaining to Document Filing.
- 23.02 Confidential material must be filed separately from non-confidential material. When necessary, within non-confidential filings, reference the confidential filing.
- 23.03 Documents filed with the Commission that a party requests to be confidential or that claim to contain confidential material must clearly designate it in the document, the document's file name and on the cover letter, as well as be watermarked, if possible ("Confidential" or "Contains Confidential Material").
- 23.04 Paper copies of confidential documents filed in binder form must have the word "Confidential" included on the binder cover.
- 23.05 If a party files a document that is marked "Confidential" but is no longer confidential, the party must notify the Commission in writing that the document may be made public.

24 Requests for access to confidential documents in a proceeding

- 24.01 If the Commission grants a request for confidentiality, the Commission, with comments from the party submitting the document, and/or any party affected by disclosure of the confidential document, may consider whether access to the confidential information may be provided to certain parties upon request.
- 24.02 Parties requesting access to confidential information must submit a request electronically to the Commission, with a copy to the party who filed the document confidentially, that explains the reason(s) for the request and a statement describing how access to the information pertains to their participation in the proceeding.
- 24.03 If a request for access to confidential information is accepted, the requestor must sign and file with the party and the Commission a Declaration and Undertaking form in respect of the use of the confidential information before receiving a copy of the confidential information from the

party. The Declaration and Undertaking form is a binding commitment by the requestor: (i) to use the confidential information disclosed exclusively for purposes related to the proceeding; (ii) to hold the information in confidence; (iii) to not reproduce the document(s) disclosed; and (iv) to return to the party the confidential document(s) or to destroy the confidential document(s) within fourteen (14) days of the Commission's final decision in the proceeding. The Commission may impose any other additional conditions or safeguards as it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

- 24.04 Any party may object to a request for access to confidential information by filing an objection with reasons in a timely manner. The Commission will give the party claiming confidentiality and the requestor an opportunity to reply to an objection.
- 24.05 The Commission will render the final determination as to whether access will be granted to the confidential information and the conditions on a party's access.