

Fred James

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December 6, 2018

Mr. Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary and Manager
Regulatory Support
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Mr. Wruck:

**RE: Project No. 1598976
British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or Commission)
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
Extension Request to File Net Metering Service
under Rate Schedule (RS) 1289 Application (the Application)
Response to BCUC Panel Information Request No. 1**

BC Hydro writes to respond to the BCUC Panel question asking whether BC Hydro would be able to complete the stakeholder engagement and file the Net Metering Application by April 30, 2019.

BC Hydro does not believe that a filing date of April 30, 2019 is achievable. It would not provide sufficient time to complete meaningful engagement with stakeholders on necessary issues related to the Net Metering program.

There are a number of potential issues to be addressed in the Application that will benefit from a fulsome stakeholder engagement process, for example program characteristics and the treatment of generator size, pricing and cost recovery, and program adaptability to meet future trends and customer needs. BC Hydro believes it is important that stakeholders have an opportunity to consider and provide input on these issues, as well as identify other concerns that they consider important so they can be appropriately addressed in the Application.

BC Hydro plans to undertake engagement with stakeholders in a variety of ways, which may include webinars and other forms of information sharing and feedback. BC Hydro expects that this process will extend over a three to four month period and may include follow up engagement to clarify and confirm the approach to the issues to be taken in the application. We anticipate this engagement would begin after the province's report on Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Review has been issued, which is expected in early 2019.

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BC Hydro also believes that a comprehensive engagement process supports an efficient regulatory process for the review of the Application, as the nature and scope of the issues, as well as the concerns and perspectives of stakeholders and BC Hydro can be discussed in advance of the Application filing. This may reduce the need for subsequent clarification of issues in the Information Request process.

For these reasons BC Hydro believes that an extension in the filing date of the next Net Metering Application to July 31, 2019 is appropriate.

For further information, please contact Chris Sandve at 604-974-4641 or by email at bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com.

Yours sincerely,



Fred James
Chief Regulatory Officer

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