

Date Submitted: June 10, 2019

Proceeding name: BCUC Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry

Participant contact information

Organization or individual name: Leq'a':mel First Nation

City: Deroche

Province: British Columbia

Email: generalmanager@leqamel.ca

Phone number: 6048267976

For organizations only - representative contact information

Name: Ellen Torng

Organization (if different from above):

City:

Province:

Email:

Phone number:

Also representing (if applicable):

Additional information

Please state your reasons for intervening in this proceeding:

Leq'a':mel First Nation owns and operates hydro lines going to approx 133 homes across two reserves. Those hydro lines were installed at Leq'a':mel's expense in the mid 1980's. The lines are operated and maintained by Leq'a':mel but used strictly by BC Hydro to deliver electricity to private homes and businesses on IR 8, and 11. Leq'a':mel believes it should have the opportunity to purchase electricity from BC Hydro at commercial rates and resell to homeowners at

residential rates. Having operated this electrical line system for 34 years, Leq'a':mel know that they are capable of continuing this process. Additionally, the Nation is interested in entering the utility market using Bio Mass as an energy source in addition to purchasing energy from BC Hydro at bulk commercial rates . As a federally governed entity we believe that the utility regulatory commission should eventually phase out once a First Nation regulatory power authority is formed to regulate and create a dispute resolution process to ensure the safety of our customers.

Please state how you are directly or sufficiently affected by the Commission's decision in this matter; or describe your experience, information, or expertise relevant to this matter that would contribute to the Commission's decision making:

Leq'a':mel already provides a utility services and takes all costs and responsibility but reaps no benefits due to the way the current utility provider, BC Hydro, is structured. Leq'a':mel wishes to expand on its current experience by expanding into the biomass industry Leq'a':mel is recognized as a community in great standing for governance and administration as it meets all the requirements of the First Nations Financial Management Board. We believe we can be a pilot project and a role model for other small First Nation communities.

Please list the key issues you intend to address in the proceeding:

The key issues we wish to address in this hearing are 1. The need to purchase energy at commercial bulk rates from BC Hydro so that it can be resold to our customers on our band owned and operated hydro lines. 2. The need for Leq'a':mel to benefit from its water resources; 3. The need to benefit from its current situation with profits rather than deficits; and 4. To further explore new sources of energy to align with Leq'a':mel's environmental and stewardship values.

For administrative purposes only

Do you intend to participate fully, including attendance at hearings and submission of evidence or information requests, if applicable?: Yes

Do you intend to request PACA funding? This does not impact your ability to participate: Yes

Have you or your organization web-registered as an intervener or interested party in the past 12 months?: No

If yes, please provide your username: