



July 22, 2019

Sent via eFile

<p align="center">BCUC INDIGENOUS UTILITIES REGULATION INQUIRY EXHIBIT A-15</p>

To: Registered interveners

Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission – Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry – Project No. 1598998 – Process for Information Requests on Evidence

By G-110-19 dated May 23, 2019, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) established the regulatory timetable for the Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry (Inquiry), which included the filing of intervener evidence by Monday, July 15, 2019, BCUC information requests (IRs) on written evidence by Monday, August 5, 2019, intervener IRs on written evidence by Monday, August 12, 2019, and responses to IRs due to be filed with the BCUC on Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

The BCUC recognizes that there are a number of registered interveners in the Inquiry that may be new to the BCUC's processes. The BCUC has therefore provided some background information regarding the preparation of and response to IRs to assist with this process.

Written Evidence

Written evidence filed by interveners has been filed as "C" Exhibits on the Inquiry website;¹ the BCUC is grateful to interveners for their thoughtful submissions to date. The BCUC has also commissioned two independent expert reports: Utility Regulation - What Is It, Why Do We Have It, and How Does It Work? by Scott Hempling;² and Jurisdictional Review of the Regulation of Indigenous Utilities in Canada by Daria Babaie.³

Preparing Information Requests

The BCUC may issue IRs on intervener evidence in order to test the evidence, ask clarifying questions, or fill potential gaps in the evidentiary record, in order to assist the Inquiry Panel in its preparation of its draft, interim and final reports. The testing of evidence through this IR process is designed to enable the Panel to place more weight on the evidence; however, the weight placed on any evidence, oral comments made during the Community Input Sessions, or Letters of comment is at the discretion of the Inquiry Panel.

Interveners may also file IRs on the evidence of other interveners, and on the two independent expert reports prepared for the BCUC. Intervener IRs should consider what further information might assist with the

¹ <https://www.bcuc.com/ApplicationView.aspx?ApplicationId=669>

² [Exhibit A-8](#)

³ [Exhibit A-13](#)

preparation of their final submissions, due to be filed with the BCUC on Friday, September 27, 2019. Interveners may not file IRs on Letters of Comment (filed as “E” exhibits on the Inquiry website) or on oral submissions made at a Community Input Session.

Information requests should only be made to seek information that is relevant to the scope of this Inquiry. The BCUC will be issuing its information requests to interveners on Monday, August 5, 2019. Interveners are encouraged to review the BCUC’s IRs ahead of filing their own IRs to other interveners to avoid repetition.

The usual format for an information request is to include a citation from the evidence (including a reference page number / section as applicable) where an issue is discussed, and ask a question in relation to it. Further information may be found in Section 13.02 of the BCUC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure.⁴

Responding to Information Requests

Interveners that have filed written evidence should be prepared to respond to IRs filed by the BCUC and other interveners, pursuant to Section 14.01 of the BCUC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. The BCUC encourages interveners to file responses that are as complete as possible, but do not expect interveners to address issues where they do not have a view and/or possess reasonably accessible information to answer the IR (see Section 14.04 of the BCUC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure for further information).

The format for IR responses can be found in 14.02 of the BCUC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. If there are any responses that require the inclusion of confidential information, please file those responses in a separate document with an explanation of why the information should not be made public. Any materials where there is a request for confidentiality will be treated in accordance with Sections 16 to 24 of the BCUC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The deadline for interveners to respond to IRs is Tuesday September 10, 2019, and should be filed electronically via the e-Filing system (see Section 11 of the BCUC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure for further information).

Final Submissions

Following the filing of responses to IRs, interveners may address the evidence and IR responses filed by other interveners, as well as any other outstanding matters relevant to the Inquiry, in their final submissions to the BCUC by Friday, September 27, 2019. The BCUC may also provide guidance on certain issues that it would encourage interveners to address ahead of this date.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Ian Jarvis for:

Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary

PS/dg

⁴ https://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Participant-Info/G-15-19_BCUC_Rules_of_Practice_and_Procedure.pdf