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July 26, 2019

**Via E-Mail**

British Columbia Utilities Commission  
Suite 140, 900 Howe Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

**Attention: Patrick Wruck, Commission  
Secretary and Manager, Regulatory Services**

Dear Mr. Wruck:

**Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission ("BCUC") - Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry ("Inquiry") – Project No. 1598998 – Nisga'a Nation, as represented by the Nisga'a Lisims Government – Request to Intervene**

We write on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation, as represented by the Nisga'a Lisims Government, ("**Nisga'a Nation**") to request that the Nisga'a Nation be registered as an intervenor to participate in this Inquiry. We will also file an electronic version of the Nisga'a Nation's Request to Intervene.

**Background on the Nisga'a Nation**

The Nisga'a Final Agreement (the "**Nisga'a Treaty**") defines the Nisga'a Nation as the collectivity of those Aboriginal people who share the language, culture and laws of the Nisga'a Indians of the Nass Area and their descendants. The Nisga'a Nation is a distinct legal entity with the capacity, rights, powers, and privileges of a natural person. The Nisga'a Nation acts through Nisga'a Lisims Government.

The Nisga'a Treaty came into effect on 11 May 2000 and has the force of law. The Nisga'a Nation is a party to the Nisga'a Treaty, along with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and Her Majesty the Queen in right of British Columbia.

The Nisga'a Treaty is a treaty and land claims agreement within the meaning of sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. It addresses all aspects of the continuing relationship between the Nisga'a Nation and the federal and provincial Crown, and sets out Nisga'a Nation rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

### **Nisga'a Nation Interest in the Inquiry**

The Commission's report at the end of this Inquiry will advise the British Columbia government on the regulation of Indigenous utilities. The interaction between Nisga'a jurisdiction under the Nisga'a Treaty and the regulation of utilities within Nisga'a Lands (as defined under the Nisga'a Treaty) is a matter of great interest to the Nisga'a Nation.

The Nisga'a Nation is therefore interested in all issues in this Inquiry, as set out in Commission Order G-62-19 and the Commission's subsequent letter dated 10 May 2019 on Additional Scope Questions.

The Nisga'a Nation also believes it can offer the Commission an important perspective on the issues that will assist the Inquiry. In this regard, the Nisga'a Nation was specifically named in Order in Council 108, which requested that the Commission undertake the Inquiry.

### **Participation in the Inquiry**

The Nisga'a Nation intends to participate fully in all aspects this Inquiry, including filing evidence, asking information requests, and final submissions.

The Nisga'a Nation will also be seeking participant funding.

### **Contact Information for Nisga'a Nation for this Inquiry**

Please send all communications on this Inquiry to the following people.

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Yours truly,

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