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Utilities Commission

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August 2, 2019

Sent via email/eFile

BCUC INDIGENOUS UTILITIES REGULATION INQUIRY
EXHIBIT A-23

Mr. Zach Harmer
Policy Director
Canadian Geothermal Energy Association
PO Box 1462, Street M
Calgary, AB T2P 2L6
policy@cangea.ca

**Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission – Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry – Project No. 1598998 -
BCUC Information Request No. 1**

Dear Mr. Harmer:

Further to British Columbia Utilities Commission Order G-110-19, enclosed please find BCUC Information Request No. 1 to Canadian Geothermal Energy Association. In accordance with the Regulatory Timetable, please file your responses no later than Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary

/nd



British Columbia Utilities Commission
Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry

INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1 TO CANGEA

1.0 Reference: Exhibit C7-2, Section 5.5, p. 39
Inclusion of Indigenous Nation values

The Canadian Geothermal Energy Association (CanGEA) states in Exhibit C7-2:

The NZ [New Zealand] Māori trust geothermal utility case studies serve as useful examples as to how Indigenous groups and communities can benefit from the ownership or partial ownership of geothermal utilities. The evolution of NZ's RMA is also demonstrative of how prudent government action can resolve regulatory issues that hinder development. The inclusion of Māori values in NZ's resource management laws has led to several successful geothermal utility Māori trust and government partnerships, which in turn has led to increased self-sufficiency, economic stimulus, jobs and other opportunities for the trusts and their members.¹

1.1 Does CanGEA have a view on whether including Indigenous Nation² values into legislation would help resolve some regulatory issues that might be faced by Indigenous utilities in British Columbia?

1.1.1 If so, does CanGEA have a view on any considerations for the integration of Indigenous Nations' values into British Columbian provincial legislation?

2.0 Reference: Exhibit C7-2, Section 7.0, p. 42
Indigenous Utilities Regulation

In Exhibit C7-2, CanGEA states (emphasis in original):

CanGEA's mission is to accelerate Canadian exploration and development of geothermal resources in order to provide **secure, clean and sustainable energy** to Canada's heat and electricity markets. The concepts of **secure, clean and sustainable energy** were common throughout the Indigenous Utility Regulation Inquiry's Community Input Sessions, alongside the ideas of **socio-economic benefits and self-sufficiency**. As such, CanGEA submits that if Indigenous Utilities are to be regulated, CanGEA believes that **regulations should be designed in a way that promotes the development of Indigenous-owned utilities and facilitates the social, economic, and environmental benefits for their traditional territories and beyond.**

2.1 Does CanGEA have a view on how legislation, including existing legislation such as the *Utilities Commission Act*, can be designed to promote the development of Indigenous-owned utilities?

¹ Emphasis added.

² As defined in section 1 of Order in Council No. 108, http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0108_2019.