

REQUESTOR NAME:

NUU-CHAH-NULTH TRIBAL COUNCIL, COWICHAN TRIBES, GITANYOW FIRST NATION, HOMALCO FIRST NATION and B.C. FIRST NATIONS CLEAN ENERGY WORKING GROUP (“COLLECTIVE FIRST NATIONS”)

INFORMATION REQUEST ROUND NO: #1

TO: SCOTT HEMPLING

DATE: August 12, 2019

ORDER NO: G-62-19

APPLICATION NAME: BCUC INDIGENOUS UTILITIES REGULATION INQUIRY

1.0 Reference: Exhibit A-8, “I. Publicly-owned utilities”, page 8

“Publicly-owned utilities are utilities that are owned by the government or by the customers themselves. These utilities differ from shareholder-owned companies in two important ways. First, they are ultimately accountable to taxpayers or customers – so their leader can be removed by political actors. Second, they have no private shareholders, so there is no profit interest to cause conflict with the customers’ interests. Given these two facts some argue that an independent regulator is unnecessary; that these companies have every reason to regulate themselves. Others cite examples of nonprofit or government-owned utilities that are inefficient because they are monopolies making regulation no less necessary that it is for for-profit utilities”

1.2 What experience does the author have with utility regulation in British Columbia and in particular publicly-owned utilities? Please provide the details.

2.0 Reference: Exhibit A-8, “B. Regulated actors”, page 10

“The main actor will be the utility that serves retail customers.”

2.1 What is meant by the term “retail customers”? Does it include residential, commercial and industrial customers? Residential customers only? Please explain.