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**Date Submitted:** August 22, 2019

**Proceeding name:** BCUC Municipal Energy Utilities Inquiry

## **Participant contact information**

**Organization or individual name:** Village of Valemount

**City:** Valemount

**Province:** British Columbia

**Email:** cao@valemount.ca

**Phone number:** 2505664435

## **For organizations only - representative contact information**

**Name:** Wayne Robinson

**Organization (if different from above):**

**City:** Valemount

**Province:** British Columbia

**Email:** cao@valemount.ca

**Phone number:** 250-566-4435

**Also representing (if applicable):**

## **Additional information**

**Please state your reasons for intervening in this proceeding:**

The Village of Valemount is a municipality in BC and has potential future ambitions to create a direct use district heating system and electricity generation through Geothermal and Biomass waste wood.

**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:**

The Village of Valemount is situated in close proximity to a vast store of Geothermal heat, as well, the Village is the sole shareholder of the Valemount Community Forest (VCF) and Valemount Industrial Park (VIP). The VCF and VIC are perfect candidates to generate heat and power through geothermal due to their industrial land space/zoning and biomass heat/energy generation through their forestry operations. These two corporations and the land they are situated on are owned by the Village but are situated outside our municipal boundaries in the RDFFG. With the current language of the Utilities Commission Act, if heat or power is generated outside our boundaries and brought into the Village to power or heat municipal facilities, this would have to be set up as a utility. Almost assuredly, the municipality would ask for an exemption from this requirement. An exemption can be a long and onerous process. We would prefer this is not the case for the benefit of our local tax payers and the tax payers of BC. It is our opinion that the Act should be amended to allow for such instances where a municipal owned heat/energy generation facility can be located outside its boundaries, and be exempt from being a utility. This is especially true for northern communities that may rely on diesel power generation on communities such as Valemount that are located at the end of BC Hydro Transmission lines and are subject to more frequent power outages. Furthermore, given the unrealized potential for Geothermal heat and power throughout the province, municipalities wanting to take advantage of these resources will often need to obtain this heat or generated power from a facility located outside their municipal boundaries, being that municipalities are often relatively confined by space. This could conceivably be the case for solar, wind and other renewable energy resources. The commission may want to consider this provides an unfair advantage to Districts that often have more land within their boundaries than Villages - as a result, most Villages do not have the available lands to generate heat or power without crossing municipal boundaries.

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

Municipal owned assets/land outside of the community who's power or heat generate potential crosses jurisdictional boundaries. Need for more flexibility to allow municipalities to seek green energy solutions that will positively impact their community, that happens to be generated outside their boundaries.

## **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:** No

**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:**