
Date Submitted: September 12, 2019

Proceeding name: BCUC Municipal Energy Utilities Inquiry

Participant contact information

Organization or individual name: Canadian Geothermal Energy Association

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For organizations only - representative contact information

Name: Christal Loewen

Organization (if different from above):

City: Calgary

Province: Alberta

Email: christal@cangea.ca

Phone number: 306-551-8145

Also representing (if applicable):

Additional information

Please state your reasons for intervening in this proceeding:

The Canadian Geothermal Energy Association (CanGEA) is a pan-Canadian association dedicated to advancing the development of geothermal heat and electricity projects across the country. We have a long history of engaging and working with municipalities across Canada who are interested in developing their geothermal resources, and currently have 5 municipalities in our membership. We understand this inquiry could have a significant impact on geothermal

projects moving forward as district heating is likely to be developed at the municipal scale, as are commercial hot springs as an alternate form of generating revenue. CanGEA believes we will be able to provide useful information relating to geothermal heat and electricity utilities in this proceeding.

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:

CanGEA is the collective voice of Canada's geothermal energy industry, as such, CanGEA intends to bring expertise relevant to the Municipal Energy Utilities Inquiry that would contribute to the Commission's decision making. Background and Experience: CanGEA was founded in 2007 with the goal of unlocking Canada's tremendous geothermal energy potential. Since CanGEA's inception, it has been an instrumental actor in several significant industry changes, such as enabling geothermal electricity and heating projects to be eligible for federal funding programs and tax incentives, authoring the Canadian Geothermal Code for Public Reporting, and creating and hosting the Canadian National Geothermal Database that features geothermal favourability maps for BC, AB, Yukon and Nunavut. CanGEA participated in the BCUC Site C Inquiry, where our 3 submissions and oral testimony led to geothermal energy being included in the alternative energy portfolio. More recently, CanGEA participated in the Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry and in the Alberta Utilities Distribution System Inquiry. In addition to CanGEA's experience participating in and advancing geothermal (and geothermal related) policy initiatives, CanGEA also has access to a vast network of global leading geothermal experts and developers. CanGEA is a partner of the Global Geothermal Alliance, an affiliated organization of the International Geothermal Association, and regularly contributes to and participates in geothermal energy conferences around the world. CanGEA will work with two of our members, who have also applied as interveners in this proceeding, in order to ensure our submissions are not redundant. These members are Borealis GeoPower and the Village of Valemount.

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

In the proceeding, CanGEA will leverage our global network in order to provide information on geothermal utility projects (heat-only, electricity-only, and electricity and heating projects) from around the world, with a focus on municipally-owned projects. A case study that CanGEA will expand on is the City of Boise, Idaho's municipally-operated geothermal district heating system. In this case study, CanGEA will work with an Idaho-based expert who has consulted on the Boise project. A second case study is that of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland. The County of Cumberland is one of CanGEA's members, and has been heating and cooling portions of the Springhill Industrial Park using abandoned and flooded coal mine workings as a geothermal reservoir since the 1980s. More recently, the Cumberland Energy Authority, a wholly owned corporation of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland, has been investigating how the geothermal resources at Springhill can be better utilized. They have contracted development, engineering, promotional rendering, and feasibility studies for the Springhill Geothermal Business Park and a District Energy System Concept Design. The goal of CanGEA's participation in this proceeding is to ensure that geothermal energy as a utility is adequately represented and understood in the proceeding.

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: Yes

Have you or your organization web-registered as an intervener or interested party in the past 12 months?: Yes

If yes, please provide your username: cangea