

February 5, 2020

VIA E-FILING

Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary
BC Utilities Commission
6th Floor 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3



Reply to: Leigha Worth
ED@bcpiac.org
Ph: 604-687-3034
Our File: 7000

Dear Mr. Wruck,

**Re: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, FortisBC Energy Inc. and
FortisBC Inc. Evacuation Relief Tariff Amendment Applications
BCOAPO Information Requests No. 1 to BC Hydro**

We represent the BC Old Age Pensioners' Organization, Active Support Against Poverty, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC, Disability Alliance BC, Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, and Together Against Poverty Society, known collectively in regulatory processes as "BCOAPO et al." ("BCOAPO").

Enclosed please find the BCOAPO's Information Requests No. 1 to BC Hydro with respect to the above-noted matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,
BC PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE

Original on file signed by:

Leigha Worth
Executive Director | General Counsel

Encl.

REQUESTOR NAME: **BCOAPO**
INFORMATION REQUEST ROUND NO: **#1**
TO: **BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO & POWER
AUTHORITY**
DATE: **FEBRUARY 5, 2020**
PROJECT NO: **1599047**
APPLICATION NAME: **EVACUATION RELIEF TARIFF
AMENDMENT APPLICATION**

1.0 Reference: Exhibit B1-1, page 3

Preamble: With respect to customers affected by the Old Fort Landslide, the Application states: "Since December 5, 2018, no bill credits have been provided to any of these customers under the Evacuation Order as of the date of this filing but will be once the Evacuation Order has been lifted."

- 1.1 Please clarify what is meant by the referenced quote. Does this mean that the customers concerned continue to be billed for the applicable Basic Charge and Energy Charge?
- 1.2 If yes, please explain why given that Order G-19-2 approved the waiving of such charges up to March 31, 2019.

2.0 Reference: Exhibit B1-1, pages 3-4

- 2.1 Are there any BC Hydro accounts that are affected by the Old Fort Landslide or Sukunka Landslide Evacuation Orders that are not Residential or Small General Service accounts?

3.0 Reference: Exhibit B1-1, page 5

Preamble: The Application states: "The waiver of charges discussed above does not apply to Transmission Service customers because the Force Majeure Clause 16 of Electric Tariff Supplement No. 5 provides some relief to customers due to certain specified events which may include events resulting in Evacuation Orders."

- 3.1 What types of events are not covered by the Force Majeure Clause could lead to Evacuation Orders?
- 3.2 If the Force Majeure Clause is applicable, what charges would be waived during an Evacuation Order.
- 3.3 Is the revenue loss from the waiving of such charges recovered from ratepayers or to the account of the shareholder?

4.0 Reference: Exhibit B1-1, page 6

Preamble: Points 3 and 4 outline charges that will be waived if a residential customer's dwelling was destroyed.

- 4.1 Why isn't there a similar provision for small general service customers whose building is destroyed?
- 4.2 Please clarify what is meant by "destroyed". Does it include circumstances where the dwelling is partially damaged such that it is uninhabitable?
- 4.3 How will BC Hydro confirm that the dwelling has been "destroyed"?
- 4.4 With respect to the waiver of the service connection charges for new residential dwellings, if the customer chooses to install a larger service, will BC Hydro provide a credit towards the service connection charge equivalent to the charge that would have been waived if service of the same size had been installed?

5.0 Reference: Exhibit B1-1, pages 4 and 11

- 5.1 The discussion of the Sukunka Landslide Evacuation Order on page 4 indicates that BC Hydro has just one residential account in the affected area. However, on page 11 BC Hydro makes reference to residential and commercial premises being subject to the Evacuation Order. Please clarify the customers impacted by the Sukunka Landslide Evacuation Order.

6.0 Reference: Exhibit B1-1, page 13

Preamble: The Application states:

"BC Hydro monitors the province of British Columbia's EmergencyInfoBC website to prompt the investigation of the issuance of associated Evacuation Orders. However, a State of Emergency may be missed so BC Hydro also relies upon direct notification by customers, local authorities, the provincial government, federal government, First Nations band council, or public issuances by the news media, in order to prompt investigations and reviews of associated Evacuation Orders."
(emphasis added)

- 6.1 Is the EmergencyInfoBC website intended to include all situations where Evacuation Orders have been issued?
- 6.2 With reference to why a "State of Emergency may be missed" would it be because it was not post on the website or because BC Hydro missed/overlooked the posting?

7.0 Reference: Exhibit B1-1, page 14

Preamble: The Application states: “BC Hydro does not expect any bill credits will be needed for the energy charge during any Evacuation Orders until such time as the power is being used.”

7.1 Is it not the case that power will continue to be used during any Evacuation Order unless the service has been disconnected?

7.1.1 If yes, please explain why “BC Hydro does not expect any bill credits will be needed for the energy charge during any Evacuation Orders until such time as the power is being used.”

7.2 For the customer currently under Evacuation Orders due to the Old Fort and Sukunka Landslides: i) is their service disconnected and ii) are bills continuing to be issued?

7.3 Please clarify whether it is BC Hydro’s intent to only calculate and apply the bill credits after the Evacuation Order has been lifted or whether, once BC Hydro is aware an Evacuation Order has been issued, bill credits will be applied to bills issued while an Evacuation Order is in effect.

7.4 Is there a possibility that, while an Evacuation Order is in effect, BC Hydro will be unable to deliver the customer’s bill?

7.4.1 Is a customer responsible for bill if BC Hydro is unable to deliver it?

**8.0 Reference: Exhibit B1-1, page 15
Exhibit B2-1, page 2**

8.1 To what extent are the customer captured by the rate schedules to which BC Hydro’s proposed Evacuation Relief Tariff Amendment apply similar/different from the customers captured by the FortisBC rate schedules its proposed Evacuation Relief Tariff would apply to?