



bcuc
British Columbia
Utilities Commission

Patrick Wruck
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February 20, 2020

Sent via email/eFile

BCUC INDIGENOUS UTILITIES REGULATION INQUIRY
EXHIBIT A-51

Mr. Fred James
Chief Regulatory Officer
Regulatory & Rates Group
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
16th Floor - 333 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3
bhydroregulatorygroup@bhydro.com

Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission – Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry – Project No. 1598998 - Panel Information Request No. 1 to the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

Dear Mr. James:

Enclosed please find Panel Information Request No. 1 to British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. Pursuant to Order G-26-20, please file your responses no later than Friday, February 28, 2020.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Ian Jarvis:

Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary

/ad



British Columbia Utilities Commission
Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry

PANEL INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1 TO BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY

1.0 Reference: RETAIL ACCESS
Exhibit C2-2, pp. 13 – 14
Direction No. 8 to the British Columbia Utilities Commission, B.C. Reg. 24/2019

On pages 13 and 14 of Exhibit C2-2, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) provides a summary of access to its transmission system through the Open Access Transmission Tariff, and the concept of retail access.

Direction No. 8 to the British Columbia Utilities Commission states:

Except on application by the authority, the commission must not set rates for the authority that would result in the direct or indirect provision of unbundled transmission services to retail customers in British Columbia, or to those who supply such customers.” [*underline added*]

- 1.1 Please explain what “transmission services” means in the above context. If a generator and its customer are both connected to the BC Hydro system, at what voltage does each need to be connected to require “transmission service” to complete the connection between them?
- 1.2 Is the term “transmission services” applied regardless of the actual path between the two points (e.g. generator and customer)?

2.0 Reference: SERVICE TERRITORY
Exhibit C2-2, p. 8

On page 8 of Exhibit C2-2, BC Hydro states:

[The *Utilities Commission Act*] also promotes the appropriate allocation of costs and the efficient development of utility infrastructure between Public Utilities, thereby reducing the risk that one or more of a Public Utility’s infrastructure assets becomes impaired or no longer used and useful (stranded asset risk). This is particularly relevant to BC Hydro. In addition to the over four million British Columbians we serve directly, we also maintain interconnections with, and infrastructure, to provide electricity and transmission service to energy sellers and other Public Utilities in B.C.

- 2.1 Please provide the geographic boundary of BC Hydro’s service territory.
 - 2.1.1 Please clarify whether BC Hydro’s service territory is limited to a certain distance from the nearest existing transmission or distribution line.
- 2.2 Please provide documentation of any agreement establishing BC Hydro’s service territory, and any exclusive rights to provide service therein.

- 2.2.1 In the absence of any such agreement, please provide a view on what legal or regulatory barriers exist, if any, for other utilities wishing to operate and sell electricity to customers within BC Hydro's service territory.
- 2.2.2 Please also provide BC Hydro's view on the jurisdiction and role of the BCUC in determining whether another utility can operate and sell electricity to customers within BC Hydro's service territory.