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June 10, 2020

Via: Electronic Filing Portal

Commission Secretary
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2N3

**RE: Nelson Hydro – COVID-19 Relief Program Information and Bylaw
Amendment – Project No. 1599097 – Public Notice**

Dear Commission Secretary,

Nelson Hydro writes with regard to Commission Order G-138-20 (the Order), dated June 4, 2020¹, which set the Regulatory Timetable for the above-referenced Application (Project No. 1599097) and directed Nelson Hydro to provide public notice of the Application (the Public Notice). Specifically, the Order provided that:

Nelson Hydro must post a copy of this order on the City of Nelson website and must provide written notice of the Application and a copy of this order to all non-municipal ratepayers by letter or by publishing same in the appropriate local news publication by no later than Friday, June 12, 2020.

Respectfully, Nelson Hydro now informs the Commission that it is not possible to publish the Public Notice in a print edition of a local news publication by June 12 due to the fact that, as detailed below, local news publications are published infrequently and require advance notice of advertisements. Rather, the Public Notice is currently set to be published in two local publications on June 16 and 18.

The local news publications that print physical papers are the Nelson Star and Pennywise (a classified ads paper). The Nelson Star print version is published once a week on Thursdays and requires advertisements to be submitted a week in advance. Additionally, due to COVID-19 the Pennywise print version is published only every other week on Tuesdays. Given the date of the Order it was not possible to satisfy the publications' deadlines to have an advertisement published by June 12 despite Nelson Hydro's best efforts.

¹ The Order was received by Nelson Hydro by email at 4:20 p.m. on June 4, 2020.

The staff member assigned to monitor Commission Orders was away from the office on the afternoon of June 4 and on June 5. Following the weekend, on June 8, Nelson Hydro staff contacted Commission staff requesting a draft Public Notice for publication as has been the historical practice when Nelson Hydro is directed to publish an advertisement. On the afternoon of June 8, Nelson Hydro staff received the draft Public Notice for publication. Nelson Hydro staff then immediately submitted the Public Notice to the local newspapers for publication in an effort to meet the Commission's June 12 deadline. The Public Notice is now scheduled to run in the print version of the Nelson Star on June 18 and the print version of Pennywise on June 16 – the earliest possible dates for each publication. Notably the Public Notice has been published in the Nelson Star's online edition. Furthermore, the Public Notice has been published and highlighted on the City's website.²

The Commission's Order has set a June 19, 2020 deadline for those registered as interested parties to provide feedback on the Application. Given the unavoidable delay in having the Public Notice published in a print edition of a local news publication, the City is now inquiring as to whether the Commission would like to extend that deadline or if it shall remain as is. The City would require notice from the Commission on this matter as soon as possible in order to make any adjustment to the Public Notice that is scheduled for publication.

Respectfully submitted,



Gabriel Bouvet-Boisclair
Deputy Corporate Officer, City of Nelson

On behalf of Alex Love, General Manager, Nelson Hydro

cc: Alex Love, General Manager, Nelson Hydro

² See <https://www.nelson.ca/823/Nelson-Hydro-COVID-19-Relief-Program-App>; see also <https://www.nelson.ca/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=474>.