

June 26, 2020

Commission Secretary
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410 - 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

RE: KPL – Safety and Reliability Investigation
Project Number 1599094
BCUC Order G-115-20A

Dear Commission Secretary:

Please accept this this letter as support for the Ka:yu:'k't'h' / Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (KCFN) complaint filed against Kyuquot Power Ltd. (KPL) earlier this year.

KPL customers within Kyuquot have become increasingly reliant on electricity since the area was electrified over ten years ago. While reliability during winter months has always proven challenging, outages seem to have increased in both frequency and duration over the last couple of years.

When the KPL powerline goes out to Kyuquot we are without electricity. This means we are without electrical heat, lights, cook stoves, or cold storage capabilities unless we run private generators. There are no gas stations in Kyuquot, so even if we do have our own generators, fuel supplies run out quickly. The nearest fuel is a one-hour round trip away by boat, and this stretch of water is often not safe for passage during the storms that typically take power out. The cost of gas for generators, and for the boat trips to purchase gas, add up quickly.

The local SD84 school and surrounding teacherages are without electricity when the KPL power utility is out, so local children are not able to attend classes. This means at least one parent or care giver must remain home with any school age children. These children also lose out on much needed class time, which often proves difficult to make-up throughout the rest of the year.

We have tried numerous times to get in touch with KPL when the power goes out for updates, but they do not answer or get back to us with information or explanation regarding the outages.

As someone who relies on the electrical service provided by KPL for daily life, I look forward to an increased level of reliability following the outcome of these complain proceedings.

Sincerely,


Steinar Vage