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February 3rd, 2021

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

RE: Nelson Hydro COSA and RDA application

The Board of Directors and staff of the Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce have reviewed the Nelson Hydro Cost of Service Analysis (COSA), and are supportive of its findings. While rate increases can be challenging for some individual customers, the COSA and Rate Design Application looked at holistically clearly shows that an increase to the rural residential rate will go a long way to creating a fair cost recovery and return on the City of Nelson's investment in this important utility.

The Chamber also believes that the COSA proves that commercial customers are over contributing to Nelson Hydro revenues relative to residential ratepayers, so the approval of the application by the BCUC paves the way for City Council to consider a rate rebalance within municipal boundaries that would likely be favourable to commercial businesses. This is something that the Chamber of Commerce will advocate to the City of Nelson to ensure this inequity in rates is rebalanced following the rural rate design application being approved by the BC Utilities Commission.

Nelson Hydro has been an important utility, established as the first hydro electric plant in BC and creating power for the City of Nelson since 1896, and providing rural service for nearly 100 years. Nelson does not have an industrial tax base and relies solely on taxation from small business and residents to fund the many services in Nelson. That the return on its electric utility, including the rural portion of the utility is critical in being able to provide those services. The City of Nelson does not receive taxation from rural property owners and if it is not able to make a rate of return on these assets like private utilities such as FortisBC it would not make business sense to serve these residents.

Sincerely



Tom Thomson Executive Director
Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce

Request to Intervene

In accordance with the Commission's **Rules of Practice and Procedure** (/Documents/Participant-Info/G-15-19_BCUC_Rules_of_Practice_and_Procedure.pdf), a Request to Intervene form must be received by the Commission by the deadline included in the proceeding's regulatory timetable. Please complete the form below.

Proceeding name*

Nelson Hydro COSA and RDA

Participant contact information

Organization or individual name*

Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce

City*

Nelson

Province*

British Columbia

Email

tom@discovernelson.com

Phone number

12503523433

For organizations only - representative contact information

Name

Tom Thomson

Organization (if different from above)

Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce

City

Nelson

Province

British Columbia

Email

tom@discovernelson.com

Phone number

1250-352-3433

Also representing (if applicable)

Additional information

Please state your reasons for intervening in this proceeding.*

The Nelson and District Chamber is a business advocacy organization for more than 500 Nelson and Area businesses. It is important that the business community is engaged in the BCUC hearing on this rate adjustment application.

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.*

The Chamber represents the local and regional business community. It is clear following the Cost of Service Analysis that commercial users are overpaying for hydro services relative to the service they receive. The Chamber has the expertise to provide relative input on behalf of the businesses. Cost of doing business has long been a concern for our impacted businesses. Rate rebalancing is imperative. This is a vital step in that process.

Please list the key issues you intend to address in the proceeding.*

Commercial Rate Overpayment
Rural vs Urban Rate Balance

Do you intend to participate fully, including attendance at hearings and submission of evidence or information requests, if applicable?*

No

Do you intend to request PACA funding? This does not impact your ability to participate.*

No

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

No

Submit