October 11, 2017

Sent via email

Mr. David Austin  
Clark Wilson LLP  
900 – 885 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, BC  V6C 3H1  
DAustin@cwilson.com

Re:  British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority – British Columbia Utilities Commission Inquiry  
Respecting Site C – Project No. 1598922

Dear Mr. Austin:

The British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) acknowledges receipt of Clean Energy Association of BC’s (CEABC) letter dated October 2, 2017 requesting that the Commission obtain from BC Hydro eight specific items of confidential information and that the Commission subsequently allow the CEABC access to the requested information. This letter was posted as submission F18-4 on the Commission’s Site C Inquiry website.

Upon receiving CEABC’s October 2, 2017 letter, the Commission sought comments from BC Hydro. On October 5, 2017, BC Hydro responded to the Commission (submission F1-9) stating that, as outlined in BC Hydro’s proposed approach to providing access to confidential information (submission F1-2) and accepted by the Commission in its letter A-11, BC Hydro can provide confidential information to CEABC that falls within certain categories (Categories A and B) from both BC Hydro’s August 30, 2017 submission and the Deloitte LLP reports, once CEABC files the appropriate attestations and undertakings. BC Hydro further stated that it expects the information encompassed by Categories A and B will largely cover the subject areas that “seem to be of interest to CEABC, including Project budget.” BC Hydro also stated that its approach “in no way reflects on CEABC or other participants in the Inquiry” but that given the sensitivities of the information and the issues already experienced, BC Hydro “remain[s] of the view that the existing approach is the most appropriate one in order to protect the interest of ratepayers.”

The Commission continues to accept BC Hydro’s approach to providing access to confidential information and accordingly denies CEABC’s request in its October 2, 2017 letter.

Further, the Commission disagrees with CEABC’s statement that the “BCUC hearing will be incomplete” without the information requested by CEABC being reviewed by itself or the Commission. In accordance with the Site C Inquiry scope established by Order in Council (OIC) 244, the Panel has sought to address all items put forth in the OIC’s terms of reference and has requested as part the Preliminary Report that BC Hydro provide detailed analysis, technical information and scenario modelling to address the questions and issues the Panel has identified in its review of the Site C project. All of this information, in addition to the reports prepared by the independent consultant Deloitte LLP and the submissions from BC Hydro and other parties, including CEABC, will be taken into consideration by the Panel when preparing the Final Report.
The Commission reminds CEABC and all parties that the deadline for submitting comments on the Preliminary Report is 11:59 p.m. tonight, October 11, 2017, as confirmed by the Commission in its letter posted yesterday on the Site C Inquiry website (document A-19).

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary

cc: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com