



October 16, 2020

## **INFORMATION RELEASE – BCUC Approves BC Hydro Transmission Service Market Reference Priced Rates**

VANCOUVER – On October 14, 2020, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) [approved](#) BC Hydro’s Incremental Energy Rate (IER) as a pilot program from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2024. The IER is an optional rate for non-firm, interruptible electricity service to transmission service customers available on a year-round basis. The development of the IER is in response to requests from transmission service customers to have flexible rate options that better match their unique operating needs and requirements.

In May 2020, the BCUC also [approved](#) BC Hydro’s Freshet Rate on a permanent basis. Like the IER, the Freshet Rate is an optional rate for non-firm, interruptible electricity service to transmission service customers during a freshet period between May 1 and July 31 each year. The Freshet Rate is intended to encourage incremental load without BC Hydro incurring additional infrastructure costs, and potentially provide benefits to all ratepayers. The Freshet Rate was first introduced as a pilot, as part of BC Hydro’s [2015 Rate Design Application](#).

Having both the IER pilot and the Freshet Rate available will provide transmission service customers with choice during the pilot period, while allowing BC Hydro to observe customer preferences and behaviours.

More information about this proceeding is available [here](#).

### **Background**

On October 31, 2019, BC Hydro [applied](#) to the BCUC for approval of two optional service market reference-priced rates; the Freshet Rate and the IER. A transmission service customer that elects to enroll in an optional, non-firm interruptible service must choose either the Freshet Rate or the IER pilot, but not both, during the same billing year.

### **About the BCUC**

The BCUC is a regulatory agency responsible for oversight of energy utilities and compulsory auto insurance in British Columbia. It is the BCUC’s role to balance the interests of customers with the interests of the businesses it regulates. The BCUC carries out fair and transparent reviews of matters within its jurisdiction and considers public input where public interest is impacted.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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