



July 6, 2021

INFORMATION RELEASE – BCUC Invites Feedback on Draft Rules for Participant Cost Award Applications

VANCOUVER – Today, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) issued its [draft rules of practice and procedure](#) for Participant Cost Award (PCA) applications (proposed rules). The BCUC is seeking feedback on the proposed rules to develop a clear and efficient system for administering payment for costs incurred by those participating in a BCUC proceeding.

In developing the proposed rules, the BCUC considered its current [Participant Assistance/Cost Award \(PACA\) Guidelines](#) and reviewed participant cost award practices from regulators across Canada. In addition to the proposed rules, the BCUC is proposing an amendment to the definition of “proceeding” included in Part I of BCUC’s [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#) and the proposal of two new application forms: a PCA Application Form and a PCA Interim Cost Application Form. The new forms aim to provide a more streamlined approach for participants submitting cost award applications to the BCUC.

The BCUC is conducting an open and transparent review process and is inviting feedback on the proposed rules to assist in establishing the final version. Feedback can be submitted online through a [letter of comment](#) on or before **Thursday, September 9, 2021**.

Once the proposed PCA rules have been finalized and approved, they will replace the BCUC’s current PACA Guidelines.

To view the proposed rules and the new forms, please see the [proceeding page](#) on bcuc.com.

Background

Under section 118 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the BCUC has the jurisdiction to order a participant in a BCUC proceeding to pay all or part of the costs of another participant in a proceeding or the BCUC may pay all or part of the costs incurred by participants in a proceeding if it is considered to be in the public interest. The BCUC also has jurisdiction to control its own processes and make rules respecting our practices and procedures, as outlined in section 11 of the *Administrative Tribunals Act*.

About the BCUC

The BCUC is an independent regulatory body, responsible for regulating British Columbia’s energy utilities, as well as its compulsory automobile insurance rates, and intra-and provincial pipelines rates. The BCUC is also responsible for administering BC’s FPT Act. 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.

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