

ROBERT J. PELLATT
COMMISSION SECRETARY



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VIA FACSIMILE

June 18, 1997

Mr. Robert H. Hobbs
Director, Regulatory Affairs
and Corporate Secretary
West Kootenay Power Ltd.
P.O. Box 130
Trail, B.C.
V1R 4L4

Dear Mr. Hobbs:

Re: West Kootenay Power Ltd. ("WKP")
Rate Design Filing - Request for Extension

By Commission Order No. G-42-97, dated April 17, 1997, the Commission directed WKP to file a Rate Design Application no later than July 15, 1997. In a letter dated April 30, 1997 WKP requested an extension of the filing date to September 1, 1997. The Commission met to consider your request and has granted the extension since the Commission's own timing constraints mean that the actual hearing of the application is unlikely to be delayed by the extension.

In reaching its decision, the Commission took into account the May 28, 1997 request received from the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") for the following orders:

1. an order that WKP be required to file a wholesale transmission application within ninety days;
2. a ninety-day variance to Rate Schedule 3001 and Tariff Supplement No. 30 to allow WKP access to B.C. Hydro's wholesale transmission tariff; and
3. an order that WKP be permitted access to WTS pending the Commission's clarification of its ruling regarding the availability clause in Rate Schedule 3001.

The Commission also took note of WKP's reply comments regarding this request contained in Mr. Bacon's letter dated June 9, 1997. The Commission is declining to issue any of the requested Orders.

In reaching this decision, the Commission has considered B.C. Hydro's concerns regarding compliance with the reciprocity requirements contained in Rate Schedule 3001 and Tariff Supplement No. 30 and will be issuing a further letter on this issue shortly.

Although the Commission has granted the requested extension, the Commission reminds WKP that the Commission finds the implementation of wholesale transmission access throughout the province to be extremely important. The Commission believes this view to also be held by WKP's wholesale customers. Accordingly, the Commission encourages WKP to proceed with the filing of a wholesale transmission access application in a timely fashion and requests that WKP keep the Commission apprised as to its progress. Completion of the Rate Design Application will be significant in preparing for wholesale transmission access.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Pellatt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Pellatt

cms

cc: Ms. Darlene Barnett, Senior Vice President
Marketing and Customer Services
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority