

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6Z 2N3
CANADA



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-97

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
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IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Application by West Kootenay Power Ltd.
for Approval of its Rate Design and New Service Options

BEFORE: K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner) September 11, 1997

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. The Commission, by Order No. G-42-97, directed West Kootenay Power Ltd. ("WKP") to file by July 18, 1997, a Rate Design Application as referred to in its Transmission Access Application; and
- B. On June 18, 1997 the Commission, by Letter No. L-26-97, approved WKP's April 30, 1997 request for an extension to September 1, 1997 in filing its Rate Design Application; and
- C. On September 2, 1997, pursuant to Section 61 of the Utilities Commission Act, WKP applied to the Commission for approval to amend its Rate Schedules in accordance with its Rate Design and New Service Options Application ("the Application"); and
- D. The Application provides for rate increases in the Residential and Irrigation Rate Schedules and rate decreases in the General, Wholesale, Transmission and Street Lighting Rate Schedules for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000, and proposes new rate schedules identified as Time-of-Use and Green Power Rates. WKP has requested that the Application be dealt with through the process established in the Negotiated Settlement Process, Policy, Procedures and Guidelines issued by the Commission in January 1996; and
- E. The Commission, in its desire to deal efficiently with issues related to the Application, requires that an initial timetable and process for dealing with the issues be established.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission will hold a Pre-Hearing Conference on WKP's Application on Thursday, October 9, 1997 commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Robson Square Conference Centre/Video Centre, 800 Hornby Street (at Robson) Vancouver, B.C. and at the West Kootenay Power Ltd. Video Conference Centre, 2nd Floor, 1290 Esplanade Street, Trail, B.C. The Pre-Hearing Conference will address procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - scheduling,
 - completeness of the Application,
 - identification of principal issues,
 - process (workshops, information requests, settlement negotiations),
 - location(s) of the hearing, and
 - other matters that will enable the proceeding to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.
2. WKP will publish, in display-ad format, the attached Notice of Pre-Hearing Conference in the business sections of the Vancouver Sun, the Province, and in all local community newspapers in its service areas by September 24, 1997.
3. Intervenors and interested parties who would like to receive a copy of the Application should immediately request a copy from WKP and inform the Commission, in writing by October 3, 1997, of their intention to intervene and/or to attend the Pre-Hearing Conference.
4. Following the results of the Pre-Hearing Conference, the Commission will issue an Order and a Regulatory Timetable outlining further steps to be followed in the review of the Application.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 18th day of September, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Kenneth L. Hall
Commissioner

Attachment

ROBERT J. PELLATT
COMMISSION SECRETARY



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NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

WEST KOOTENAY POWER LTD. Application for Approval of its Rate Design and New Service Options

Date: Thursday, October 9, 1997
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Locations: Robson Square Conference Centre - Video Centre
800 Hornby Street (at Robson)
Vancouver, B.C.
and
West Kootenay Power Ltd.
Video Conference Centre
2nd Floor, 1290 Esplanade Street
Trail, B.C.

THE APPLICATION

On September 2, 1997 West Kootenay Power Ltd. ("WKP") applied, pursuant to Section 61 of the Utilities Commission Act, for approval to amend its Rate Schedules in accordance with its Rate Design and New Service Options Application ("the Application").

The Application provides for rate increases in the Residential and Irrigation Rate Schedules and rate decreases in the General, Wholesale, Transmission and Street Lighting Rate Schedules for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000, and proposes new rate schedules identified as Time-of-Use and Green Power Rates.

WKP has requested that the Application be dealt with through the process established in the Negotiated Settlement Process, Policy, Procedures and Guidelines issued by the Commission.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission will hold a Pre-Hearing Conference by video conference from Trail and Vancouver on Thursday, October 9, 1997 to discuss procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- scheduling,
- completeness of the Application,
- identification of principal issues,
- process (workshops, information requests, settlement negotiations),
- location(s) of the hearings; and
- other matters that will enable the proceeding to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Application is available for inspection at the following WKP locations:

Head Office: 1290 Esplanade, Trail, B.C. V1R 4L4

District Offices: Castlegar, Creston, Grand Forks, Kaslo, Kelowna (Benvoulin Road), Kelowna (Gordon Road), Oliver, Penticton, and Trail

A copy of the Application's Executive Summary is available at no charge upon request from WKP.

Copies of the Application and supporting material are also available for inspection at the office of the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3.

INTERVENTIONS

Intervenors and interested parties who would like to receive a copy of the Application should immediately request a copy from WKP and inform the Commission, in writing by October 3, 1997, of their intention to intervene and/or attend the Pre-Hearing Conference.

PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE

All parties intending to apply for Participant Assistance and who wish to attend the Pre-Hearing Conference must do so consistent with the Commission's Policy and Rate Sheet as outlined in Order No. G-103-96. Copies of the Participant Assistance Policy and Rate Sheet will be sent to all parties registering with the Commission.

CLARIFICATION

Persons intending to participate in the WKP Pre-Hearing Conference, and who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed, may contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, the Information Services Group or Ms. Deborah Emes, Manager, Strategic Services as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

E-Mail: bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca
Telephone: (B.C. Toll Free) 1-800-663-1385

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt