



IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Application by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
regarding its Bypass Rate Guidelines

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner) March 18, 1999
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner)
F.C. Leighton, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On October 2, 1998, the Commission issued Commission Order No. G-89-98 in which it directed the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") to remove the 5,000 kV.A minimum billing demand from Rate Schedules 1821 and 1848; and
- B. The same Order directed that Rate Schedule 1211 customers, currently taking service at distribution voltage, would have any requests to move to Rate Schedule 1821 held in abeyance until after the filing and review of B.C. Hydro's Transmission Extension Policy; and
- C. The same Order directed that the Transmission Extension Policy was to be filed by November 30, 1998, which was later extended to December 7, 1998; and
- D. The Commission expected that the Transmission Extension Policy would address the potential impacts on B.C. Hydro's system created by customer rate-switching; and
- E. By letter dated November 25, 1998, B.C. Hydro indicated that the Transmission Extension Policy would not address the issue of potential rate impacts created by customer rate-switching; and
- F. In the same letter, B.C. Hydro stated that this issue would be addressed by a Bypass Rate Application to be filed with the Commission in the new year; and
- G. On December 11, 1998, the Commission issued Order No. G-111-98, which directed B.C. Hydro to file a Bypass Rate Application that addressed the issue of potential impacts created by customer rate switching by February 1, 1999; and
- H. The same Order rescinded the portion of Order No. G-89-98 which directed that Rate Schedule 1211 customers currently taking service at distribution voltage would have any requests to move to Rate Schedule 1821 held in abeyance until after the filing and review of B.C. Hydro's Transmission Extension Policy; and
- I. On February 1, 1999, B.C. Hydro filed its Bypass Rate Guidelines Application with the Commission; and

- J. On February 8, 1999, Commission staff sent to B.C. Hydro a set of information requests related to B.C. Hydro's Bypass Rate Guidelines Application; and
- K. On March 1, 1999, B.C. Hydro responded to these information requests; and
- L. The Commission received letters of comment on B.C. Hydro's Bypass Rate Guidelines Application from Lex Engineering Ltd., Willis Energy Services, Ltd., and Aquila Canada Corp.; and
- M. The Commission has considered B.C. Hydro's Application, its information responses, and the comments from interested parties.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

- 1. A written public hearing will be held into B.C. Hydro's Bypass Rate Guidelines Application according to the Regulatory Agenda and Timetable, which is Appendix B to this Order.
- 2. B.C. Hydro will arrange for publication, in display-ad format, not later than Monday, March 29, 1999, of the attached Appendix A, Notice of Written Public Hearing, in The Vancouver Sun, The Province and such other appropriate local news publications so as to provide adequate notice to the public.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 23rd day of March 1999.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair

Attachments



ROBERT J. PELLATT
COMMISSION SECRETARY
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NOTICE OF WRITTEN PUBLIC HEARING

BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY BYPASS RATE GUIDELINES APPLICATION

THE APPLICATION

On February 1, 1999, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission a Bypass Rate Guidelines Application. According to the Application, a bypass rate may be available in circumstances where an economically and physically viable alternative is available to a general or transmission rate customer at a cost lower than the otherwise-appropriate rate offered by B.C. Hydro. Such alternatives may include, for example, the construction of a substation or "in-the-fence" (on-site) generation. B.C. Hydro's Bypass Rate Guidelines Application defines broad principles, which the Utility believes are applicable in all bypass situations, while asserting that bypass rates associated with an individual customer are best determined on a case-by-case basis.

The Commission, by Order No. G-31-99, has determined that a written hearing will be held into B.C. Hydro's Bypass Rate Guidelines Application according to the timetable set out below.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The Application documents and evidence filed with this proceeding will be available at the following locations:

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority	Head Office: 333 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B.C. Attention: Alice Ferreira (Phone: 623-4046)
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British Columbia Utilities Commission	Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.
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PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC HEARING

Persons who expect to actively participate in the public hearing process should register as Intervenor with the Commission. Intervenor will receive copies of all correspondence and filed documentation. Persons not expecting to actively participate should register with the Commission as Interested Parties and will receive a copy of all Orders issued, as well as the Commission's Decision.

Intervenor and Interested Parties should inform the Commission, in writing, by Friday, April 9, 1999, of their intention to become Intervenor or Interested Parties in B.C. Hydro's Bypass Rate Guidelines Application hearing and indicate the nature of their interest.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Intervenor or Interested Parties requesting additional information from B.C. Hydro regarding its Application must do so by Friday, April 23, 1999. B.C. Hydro's responses to Information Requests are required to be filed with the Commission by Friday, May 7, 1999.

SUBMISSIONS BY INTERVENORS

Intervenors must file copies of their written submissions or evidence concerning B.C. Hydro's Bypass Rate Guidelines Application with the Commission Secretary and all other Intervenors no later than Friday, May 21, 1999.

ARGUMENT

Intervenors and B.C. Hydro must file Final Argument by June 23, 1999. B.C. Hydro must file its Reply Argument by June 30, 1999.

PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE

All those intending to apply for Participant Assistance must submit a budget estimate by Friday, April 9, 1999, consistent with the Commission's Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines as outlined in Order No. G-97-98. Copies of these Guidelines are available upon request or on the Commission's web site: www.bcuc.com/paca.html.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Persons intending to participate in B.C. Hydro's Bypass Rate Guidelines Application written public hearing and who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed may contact Mr. Robert Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Ms. Deborah Emes, Manager Strategic Services, as follows:

Telephone (604) 660-4700
B.C. Toll Free 1-800-663-1385

Facsimile: (604) 660-1102
E-mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt

REGULATORY AGENDA AND TIMETABLE
BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY
BYPASS RATE GUIDELINES APPLICATION

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>DATES (1999)</u>
Deadline for Intervenor Registration	Friday, April 9
Deadline for Filing Participant Assistance Funding Applications	Friday, April 9
Filing of Information Requests to B.C. Hydro	Friday, April 23
B.C. Hydro's Responses to Information Requests	Friday, May 7
Filing of Intervenor Evidence	Friday, May 21
Filing of Information Requests on Intervenor Evidence	Friday, June 4
Responses to Information Requests from Intervenor	Friday, June 11
Deadline for Final Argument	Wednesday, June 23
Deadline for Reply Argument	Wednesday, June 30