



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
For Approval to Retire Utility Assets

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
R.D. Deane, Commissioner) June 5, 2003
R.H. Hobbs, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On April 30, 2003, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") applied to the Commission for approval to decommission the Coursier Dam ("the Dam") located near Revelstoke, B.C., pursuant to Section 41 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"); and
- B. The Coursier Dam is an earth-filled dam built in 1963 to supply storage for the Walter Hardman generating station; and
- C. B.C. Hydro has experienced incidents relating to the Dam's integrity culminating in the discovery of sinkholes in the upper face of the Dam in 1999; and
- D. In 1999 B.C. Hydro completed a deficiency investigation, which concluded that the Dam was at risk of failure and that it should be decommissioned or rebuilt; and
- E. Subsequent economic analysis has demonstrated that decommissioning was the best cost option; and
- F. The cost of decommissioning is estimated to be \$4,600,000; and
- G. B.C. Hydro undertook a series of consultation and communication activities for the Dam's proposed decommissioning project, including an Open House in Revelstoke, B.C. in October 2002; and
- H. On May 30, 2003, B.C. Hydro responded to a Staff Information Request; and

- I. The Commission has reviewed the application and finds that the Coursier Dam is no longer a safe facility for storage and should be removed from utility service.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission approves for B.C. Hydro the decommissioning of the Coursier Dam near Revelstoke, B.C., pursuant to Section 41 of the Act.
2. B.C. Hydro is to file a report with the Commission upon project completion, summarizing the decommissioning costs and their accounting treatment.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 6th day of June 2003.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert H. Hobbs
Commissioner