



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER G-160-08**

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**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
to Amend Rate Schedule 1151 – Exempt Residential Service
to Residential Inclining Block Rate Control Group Customers**

BEFORE: L.F. Kelsey, Commissioner
P.E. Vivian, Commissioner
October 31, 2008

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (“BC Hydro”) filed on February 26, 2008, pursuant to sections 58 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (the “Act”), an application for the review and approval of a new, two-step residential inclining block (“RIB”) rate structure for its residential customers, to be effective October 1, 2008, or as soon as practicable; and
- B. On August 28, 2008, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (“Commission”), by Order G-124-08, approved a RIB rate structure commencing October 1, 2008; and
- C. BC Hydro filed on October 20, 2008, pursuant to sections 58 to 61 of the Act, an application for the approval of a RIB rate exemption for a group of residential customers enrolled in a RIB rate control group, effective November 1, 2008 (“Application”). The RIB rate control group customers are to be recruited from the currently participating Conservation Research Initiative - Time of Use (“CRI TOU”) control group customers. The CRI TOU Pilot program is to end on October 31, 2008; and
- D. Specifically, BC Hydro seeks an order that will amend Rate Schedule 1151 - Exempt Residential Service (“RS 1151”) to allow customers enrolled in the RIB rate control group to continue to receive service under RS 1151 after October 31, 2008; and
- E. As one of several methods for measuring the effectiveness of the RIB rate, BC Hydro plans to use a RIB rate control group as a means of comparing the energy consumption patterns of residential customers on a flat rate to residential customers on the RIB rate; and

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- F. By letter dated October 23, 2008, the British Columbia Sustainable Energy Association and the Sierra Club of British Columbia made submissions to support BC Hydro's Application; and
- G. By letter dated October 27, 2008, the British Columbia Old Age Pensioners *et al.* submitted their opposition to the Application, citing concerns related to bias in the methodology and the effects it would have on research results; and
- H. On October 28, 2008 BC Hydro responded by letter stating that it believes that the CRI TOU control group is the best control group to evaluate the RIB rate; and
- J. The Commission has considered the matter and has concluded that the merits of research methodologies and results should be left to a full-scale application on rate structure or rate design, and the approval of the Application at hand is to facilitate BC Hydro to proceed with its research work.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders that the amended tariff page for RS 1151 attached as Appendix A to this Order is approved.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 31st day of October 2008.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

L.F. Kelsey
Commissioner

Attachment

BC Hydro
Rate Schedules
Effective: 01 November 2008
First Revision Page 14-1

SCHEDULE 1151, 1161 - EXEMPT RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Availability: For residential service and uses exempted from rate schedules 1101 and 1121, including:

1. Use upon farms as referenced in the definition of Residential Service.
2. Residential service Customers in Rate Zone IB.
3. Customers enrolled in BC Hydro's residential inclining block (RIB) rate control group. A Customer who ceases to be enrolled in the RIB rate control group shall revert to service under Rate Schedule 1101.

Service is normally single phase, 60 hertz at the secondary potential available. In BC Hydro's discretion, service may be three phase 120/208 or 240 volts.

Applicable in: Rate Zone I and Rate Zone IB

Rate: 1. Schedule 1151 - Residential Service

Basic Charge 12.93¢ per day
All kW.h @ 6.55¢ per kW.h

2. Schedule 1161 - Multiple Residential Service

Basic Charge 12.93 ¢ per day per Single-Family Dwelling per day
All kW.h @ 6.55¢ per kW.h

Minimum Charge: Schedule 1151 - The Basic Charge.

Schedule 1161 - The Basic Charge per Single-Family Dwelling

Special Conditions: The maximum capacity of all heating elements energized at any one time in any water heater served under this schedule shall not exceed the greater of 1,500 watts or 45 watts per litre (200 watts per imperial gallon) of tank capacity, except with the written permission of BC Hydro.

Discount for Ownership of Transformers: A discount of 25 ¢ per month per kW of maximum demand shall be applied to Schedule 1161 if a Customer supplies the transformation from a primary potential to a secondary potential. BC Hydro will install a demand meter in addition to a kilowatt hour meter. BC Hydro will install its meters at the secondary potential. The Billing Code for Schedule 1161 Customers eligible for the Discount for Ownership of Transformers shall be Schedule 1162.

ACCEPTED: OCT 31 2008
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COMMISSION SECRETARY