



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER G-95-09**

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6Z 2N3 CANADA
web site: <http://www.bcuc.com>

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 British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Mica Gas Insulated Switchgear Project**

BEFORE: L.F. Kelsey, Commissioner August 14, 2009

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On August 5, 2009, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("BC Hydro") applied (the "Application") for acceptance by the British Columbia Utilities Commission (the "Commission") that the expenditures in a capital expenditure schedule filed pursuant to section 44.2(1)(b) of the *Utilities Commission Act* (the "Act") in respect of the Mica Gas Insulated Switchgear Project ("Mica GIS Project") are in the public interest; and
- B. BC Hydro applied for acceptance of the capital expenditures in the schedule, rather than for approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") under sections 45 and 46 of the Act, but states that the Application has been structured to comply with the Commission's current CPCN Application Guidelines; and
- C. The Mica GIS Project will replace all of the old gas insulated switchgear ("GIS") at the Mica Generating Station with modern GIS technology, will install GIS in the third lead shaft at the station and will extend the switchgear building; and
- D. Although Mica Generation Units 5 and 6 are not in the scope of the Mica GIS Project, the Application states that the third lead shaft and the switchgear building extension will be needed for Units 5 and 6; and
- E. Commission Order G-69-09 dated June 8, 2009 approved a \$30 million expenditure in Fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011 for Definition phase work for Mica Units 5 and 6; and
- F. The Mica GIS Project is estimated to cost \$180.6 million and is scheduled to be completed in June 2013; and
- G. The Application states that the Mica GIS Project is needed to maintain the reliability of the Mica Generating Station, and will also provide safety and environmental benefits; and

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- H. BC Hydro proposes to hold a Workshop on the Mica GIS Project and the Gordon M. Shrum Units 1 to 5 Turbine Replacement Project in the Commission Hearing Room on the Twelfth Floor, 1125 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 commencing at 9:00 a.m.; and
- I. The Commission considers that a written public hearing is required for the regulatory review of the Application.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

- 1. The Commission establishes a written public hearing for the review of the Application, according to the Regulatory Timetable that is attached as Appendix A to this Order.
- 2. BC Hydro will publish, as soon as possible, in display-ad format the Notice attached as Appendix B to this Order, in the Vancouver Sun, The Province, the Victoria Times Colonist and such other appropriate local news publications as may properly provide adequate notice to residents in the vicinity of the news publications as may properly provide adequate notice to residents in the vicinity of the Mica Generating Station.
- 3. BC Hydro will provide a copy of the Application and this Order to all potentially affected First Nations and Tribal Councils.
- 4. The Application, together with any supporting materials, will be made available for inspection at the BC Hydro offices at 333 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5R3 and at the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2N3 and will also be available on the BC Hydro website.
- 5. Intervenor or Interested Parties should register with the Commission in writing or by electronic submission by Thursday, September 3, 2009. Intervenor should specifically state the nature of their interest in the Application and identify generally the nature of the issues that they may intend to pursue during the proceeding and the nature of the extent of their anticipated involvement in the review process.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 14th day of August 2009.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

L.F. Kelsey
Commissioner

Attachments

ORDERS/G-95-09_BCH-Mica GIS Project_Reg Timetable

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APPENDIX A
to Order G-95-09
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REGULATORY TIMETABLE

ACTION	DATE (2009)
BC Hydro Workshop commencing at 9:00 a.m.	Wednesday, August 26
Commission Information Request No. 1	Wednesday, September 2
Registration of Intervenors and Interested Parties with the Commission	Thursday, September 3
Participant Assistance Budgets filed	Wednesday, September 9
BC Hydro Responses to Information Request No. 1	Thursday, September 24,
Commission IR No. 2 and Intervenor IR No. 1	Wednesday, October 7
BC Hydro Responses to Information Requests	Thursday, October 22
BC Hydro written Final Submission	Thursday, October 29
Intervenors written Final Submissions	Thursday, November 5
BC Hydro written Reply Submission	Thursday, November 12



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND WRITTEN PUBLIC HEARING

THE APPLICATION

On August 5, 2009, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission to accept that a capital expenditure for the Mica Gas Insulated Switchgear Project is in the public interest. The Mica GIS Project will replace all of the old GIS at the Mica Generation Station, which is on the Columbia River and 135 km upstream from the City of Revelstoke. The Project will also install GIS in the third lead shaft at the station and will extend the switchgear building. The Project is estimated to cost \$180.6 million and is scheduled for completion in June 2013.

BC Hydro states that the Project is needed to maintain the reliability of the Mica Generating Station, and will also provide safety and environmental benefits.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

By Order G-95-09, the Commission established a written public hearing for the regulatory review of the Application. The Regulatory Timetable for the review can be viewed on the Commission website at www.bcuc.com.

INTERVENTIONS

Persons who expect to actively participate in the BC Hydro proceeding should register as Intervenor with the Commission and should identify the issues that they intend to pursue and the nature and extent of their anticipated involvement in the review process. Intervenor will each receive a copy of the Application and all correspondence and filed documentation and should provide an email address if possible.

Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the proceeding should register as Interested Parties. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Executive Summary in the Application, and all Orders and Decisions issued.

Intervenors and Interested Parties should register in writing no later than **Thursday, September 3, 2009**. Notification by mail, courier delivery, fax or email is acceptable.

All submissions and/or correspondence received from active participants or the general public relating to the Application will be placed on the public record and posted to the Commission's web site.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The Application and supporting materials will be available for inspection at the following locations:

British Columbia Utilities Commission

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3 Telephone: 1-800-663-1385

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

333 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3

Internet: www.bchydro.com and www.bcuc.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact Ms. Erica Hamilton, Commission Secretary as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Telephone (BC Toll Free): 1-800-663-1385
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102
Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com