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**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER** G-134-10

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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
for Approval to Discontinue the "Pre-Authorized Payment with Discount" Provision in BC Hydro's Electric Tariff**

BEFORE: D.A. Cote, Commissioner August 12, 2010
A.A. Rhodes, Commissioner

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On August 6, 2010, pursuant to the *Utilities Commission Act* (the Act), British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) filed an Application (Application) to remove from the Terms and Conditions of its Electric Tariff Section 5.7 *Pre-Authorized Payment With Discount* (Discount) and amend Section 2.4.1 *Pay As You Go Billing* effective December 1, 2010; and
- B. The Discount entitled BC Hydro's *Pay As You Go* customers to receive a discount of ¾ percent of their billed charges, and has been in effect since the 2000 Electric Tariff. Prior to the 2000 BC Hydro Electric Tariff, the *Advance Payment Discount Plan*, provided a ¾ percent discount to those BC Hydro customers paying their bills via pre-authorized bank debit; and
- C. As described in the Application, the original purposes of the Discount were to reduce administrative expenses for BC Hydro and to increase customer convenience; and
- D. In the Application, BC Hydro justifies the removal of Section 5.7 as changes in electronic payment options have increased customer choice and convenience and interest rates since 1990, on which the Discount percentage is based, are no longer reflective of financial benefits to BC Hydro; and
- E. BC Hydro reports that there are 4,500 customer accounts receiving the Discount and that eliminating the Discount will result in an average monthly billing impact of \$0.49 for affected residential and \$1.60 for affected commercial customers; and

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NUMBER G-134-10**

2

- F. The Commission has reviewed the Application and has determined that the request to amend Section 2.4.1 and remove Section 5.7 of the BC Hydro Electric Tariff Sheets effective December 1, 2010 should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to sections 58 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the Commission approves the Application as filed.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 12th day of August 2010.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D.A. Cote
Commissioner