



ORDER NUMBER

G-89-19

IN THE MATTER OF

the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Application to Lift the Temporary Suspension of
Generation Interconnection Procedure Timelines and
Associated Studies for Standing Offer Program Participants

BEFORE:

B.A. Magnan, Commissioner

on April 29, 2019

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 19, 2019, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), pursuant to sections 59 to 61 and 63 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), an application for approval to lift the temporary suspension of interconnection obligations contained in Attachment M-1 of the Standard Generation Interconnection Procedures (SGIP) and the distribution generator interconnection process and associated agreements as they relate to SOP projects (Application);
- B. BC Hydro submits the temporary suspension should now be lifted because the report for the Phase 1 Review is now completed and the SOP has been indefinitely suspended. Lifting the temporary suspension will allow BC Hydro and project proponents to maintain or withdraw their interconnection requests;
- C. BC Hydro states that the SOP project proponents were notified about the indefinite suspension on the day the Phase 1 Report was released, and on March 8, 2019 BC Hydro notified the proponents about its intention to file the Application to lift the suspension;
- D. On March 14, 2018 committed to proceed with Electricity Purchase Agreements for the following five First Nation clean energy projects through the SOP:
 - i. Siwash Creek – 500 kW;
 - ii. Sarita River – 5 MW;
 - iii. Sukunka Wind – 15 MW;
 - iv. Zonnebeke Wind – 15 MW, and
 - v. Tsihqot'in Solar-1MW
- E. In June 2018, the BC Government began a two-phased review of BC Hydro, with the first phase focused primarily on BC Hydro's costs and rates;

- F. On August 14, 2018, BC Hydro filed an application seeking temporary relief to BC Hydro and certain SOP participants from the application of interconnection obligations contained in Attachment M-1 of the SGIP under the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) or BC Hydro's distribution interconnection business practices (Temporary Suspension Application). The Temporary Suspension Application excluded: (i) SOP projects with a fully executed Energy Purchase Agreement (EPA); and (ii) the First Nations clean energy projects that BC Hydro committed to proceed with on March 14, 2018 but do not yet have fully executed EPA's (not including Tsilhqot'in Solar-1MW as this project had already entered into an EPA with BC Hydro when the application was filed);
- G. On August 28, 2018, by Order G-161-18, the BCUC approved BC Hydro's Temporary Suspension Application. Order G-161-18 also directed that BC Hydro must file an application for further direction regarding the temporary suspension within 60 days of the BC Government issuing its report on the first phase of the Comprehensive Review;
- H. On February 14, 2019 the BC Government issued its report on the first phase of the Comprehensive Review of BC Hydro. In accordance with the Comprehensive Review report, BC Hydro has indefinitely suspended the SOP except for the five First Nations projects that BC Hydro committed to proceed with on March 14, 2018;
- I. The BCUC has reviewed the Application and considers approval is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE the BCUC orders as follows:

- 1. The Temporary Suspension is lifted effective May 10, 2019.
- 2. BC Hydro is to provide a copy of this order to each SOP project proponent within two business days after it is issued.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 29th day of April 2019.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

B.A. Magnan
Commissioner