



ORDER NUMBER
G-193-19

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

Nelson Hydro
2019 Rural Rate Application

BEFORE:

R. I. Mason, Panel Chair
A. K. Fung, QC, Commissioner
T. A. Loski, Commissioner

on August 20, 2019

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 8, 2019, Nelson Hydro filed an application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for approval of a 2.94 percent general rate increase to all rural customer classes, effective April 1, 2019 (Application);
- B. Nelson Hydro is owned and operated by the City of Nelson and is exempt from regulation under the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) to the extent it is serving customers within its municipal boundaries. Accordingly, the BCUC's review of the Application pertains solely to Nelson Hydro's non-municipal, or rural, ratepayers;
- C. By Order G-60-19 dated March 15, 2019, the BCUC approved Nelson Hydro's requested 2.94 percent rate increase that applies to all Rural customer classes on an interim and refundable basis, effective April 1, 2019. The BCUC also established an initial regulatory timetable by Order G-70-19, which included intervenor and interested party registration and one round of BCUC and intervenor information requests (IR);
- D. By Order G-111-19 dated May 23, 2019, the BCUC amended the regulatory timetable to add a second round of IRs with further process to be determined;
- E. By Order G-142-19 dated June 25, 2019, the BCUC established a further regulatory timetable which included final and reply arguments. In accordance with Order G-142-19, final and reply arguments were submitted;
- F. By Order G-164-19 dated July 26, 2019, the BCUC established that reopening the evidentiary record of this proceeding was warranted to allow for Panel IRs, responses to Panel IRs and for the parties to submit final and reply arguments regarding the responses to the Panel IRs, and established a further regulatory timetable;
- G. On August 6, 2019, the BCUC submitted Panel IR No. 1 to Nelson Hydro;

- H. By letter dated August 8, 2019, Nelson Hydro requested an extension from August 13 to August 19, 2019 to file its responses to Panel IR No. 1. Nelson Hydro stated that while it initially believed the original date of August 13 was sufficient when consulted by the BCUC, it did not know the nature of the IR concerned information held by the City of Nelson's Finance Department. Nelson Hydro stated that the staff members from the Finance Department needed to assist in responding to the Panel IR were on holiday and would return on August 12, 2019;
- I. By Order G-189-19 dated August 9, 2019, the BCUC amended the regulatory timetable to allow for an extension for Nelson Hydro to file its responses to Panel IR No. 1 by August 19, 2019;
- J. By letter dated August 19, 2019, Nelson Hydro requested a further extension from August 19 to August 21, 2019 to file its responses to Panel IR No. 1. Nelson Hydro stated that additional time is needed to ensure a complete and accurate response; and
- K. The BCUC has reviewed Nelson Hydro's extension request and considers that an extension is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to sections 60 and 77 of the UCA, the BCUC establishes the amended regulatory timetable, attached as Appendix A to this order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 20th day of August 2019.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

R. I. Mason
Commissioner

Attachment

Nelson Hydro
2019 Rural Rate Application

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2019)
Nelson Hydro response to Panel IR No. 1	Wednesday, August 21
Intervener written supplementary Final Argument*	Wednesday, August 28
Nelson Hydro written supplementary Reply Argument*	Thursday, September 5

*The scope of the parties' comments in the supplementary arguments should be limited to matters related to the response to Panel IR No. 1.