



ORDER NUMBER
G-239-19

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

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Evacuee Assistance Application and
Evacuation Relief Tariff Amendment and Regulatory Account Treatment
Application

BEFORE:

T. A. Loski, Commissioner

on October 3, 2019

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On August 8, 2019, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for the following approvals (Application):
1. pursuant to section 63 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), BC Hydro seeks consent to waive certain charges for customers in BC Hydro's service territory subject to evacuation orders from the period starting December 5, 2018 and until final BCUC approval of the Evacuation Relief Tariff Application and Regulatory Account Treatment (Part 1 of the Application);
 2. pursuant to sections 59–62 of the UCA, approval for tariff changes to the BC Hydro's Electric Tariff. The changes to the Electric Tariff are to permit credit relief or waiver of charges to customers who are subject to an evacuation order. BC Hydro also seeks approval for the deferral of revenue impacts related to this credit relief and waivers of charges to the Storm Restoration Costs Regulatory Account (Part 2 of the Application).
- B. In Part 1 of the Application, BC Hydro proposes providing a credit to customers who are subject to the December 5, 2018 evacuation order for the Old Fort landslide, the March 25, 2019 evacuation order for the 2019 Sukunka landslide or any other evacuation orders issued in British Columbia between the date of its Application and approval of Part 2 of the Application;
- C. The credit will be for basic charges, energy charges and street lighting rates as set out in the specific Rate Schedules under which customers receive service (Applicable Charges). The credit will be for the Applicable Period and will be applied as follows:

1. Charges specific to the applicable rate schedules:
 - i. Residential Service (Rate Schedules 1101/1121, 1105, 1107/1127, 1148, and 1151/1161) – Basic Charge, Energy Charge, and the Customer Crisis Fund Rate Rider as set out in Rate Schedule 1903;
 - ii. Small General Service (Rate Schedule 1234, Rate Schedule 1205, and Rate Schedules 1300, 1301, 1310, 1311) – Basic Charge, Energy Charge, and Minimum Charge;
 - iii. Irrigation Service (Rate Schedule 1401) – Energy Charge; and
 - iv. Street Lighting Service (Rate Schedule 1755) – Charge per fixture for each month the Evacuation Orders are in effect;
 2. All charges for a residential customer whose Dwelling (as that term is defined in BC Hydro's Electric Tariff) is destroyed for the period immediately after the last billing period before the destruction; and
 3. The Service Connection Charge as set out in Section 3.14 of BC Hydro's Electric Tariff for Evacuee Customers constructing a new Dwelling if the Customers Dwelling was destroyed, provided that the service at the new Dwelling is of the same service, and that the Service Connection Charge is not recoverable as part of their insurance. Waivers under this subsection will not include other estimated construction costs, including but not limited to Extension or Optional Facilities.
- D. In Part 1 of the Application, BC Hydro also requested discretion not to waive charges as applied for under the following terms:
1. If the evacuation order is less than five consecutive days in duration;
 2. If the evacuation order has ended more than two years before the date BC Hydro receives a request from an eligible customer or otherwise becomes aware of the Evacuation Order; and
 3. Revenue impacts as a result of waivers of charges to Evacuee Customers will be deferred to BC Hydro's Storm Restoration Costs Regulatory Account.
- E. On September 30, 2019, the BCUC issued Staff Questions to BC Hydro regarding Part 1 of the Application, enquiring whether BC Hydro would accept consent for waiver of certain charges based on the same terms as Order G-189-18, issued on October 4, 2018;
- F. On October 3, 2019, in its response to BCUC Staff Questions, BC Hydro agreed to accept consent to waive charges for customers under an evacuation order (Evacuee Customers) resulting from a state of emergency declared pursuant to a statutory authority by a local authority, provincial government, federal government, or First Nations band council (Evacuation Orders) between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 (Applicable Period) which are similar to the conditions approved in BCUC Order G-189-18;
- G. BC Hydro also stated that for the Applicable Period, the resulting revenue reduction will be to the account of the shareholder; and
- H. The BCUC has reviewed the Application and evidence submitted and considers that consent is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to section 63 of the UCA, the BCUC orders as follows:

1. The BCUC hereby consents to BC Hydro providing bill credits and waivers to Evacuee Customers affected by the Evacuation Orders as follows:
 - a. a credit to customers for the basic charges, energy charges and street lighting rates as set out in the specific Rate Schedules under which customers receive service during the Applicable Period, as follows:
 - i. General Service – Basic Charge and Energy Charge;
 - ii. Residential Service – Basic Charge and Energy Charge;
 - iii. Irrigation – Energy Charge; and
 - iv. Street Lighting – all charges;
 - b. a credit to customers whose dwelling was destroyed for all charges for service for the period immediately after the last billing period before the destruction;
 - c. a credit for the Service Connection Charge as set out in Section 3.14 of BC Hydro's Electric Tariff for residential Evacuee Customers constructing a new Dwelling if the Evacuee Customer's Dwelling was destroyed during the Evacuation Orders, provided that the service at the new Dwelling is of the same service, and that the Service Connection Charge is not recoverable as part of the customer's home insurance policy. Waivers under this subsection will not include other estimated construction costs, including but not limited to Extension or Optional Facilities;
 - d. BC Hydro will waive or not calculate the Late Payment Charge set out in Section 6.3 of the BC Hydro Electric Tariff for a customer under an Evacuation Order during the Applicable Period until after the evacuation order has been lifted. The waiver will not apply to a pre-established payment plan.
2. The revenue reduction resulting from BC Hydro providing bill credits and waivers to Evacuee Customers during the Applicable Period will be to the account of the shareholder.
3. A hearing process will be established by the BCUC for the review of Part 2 of the Application at a date to be determined.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 3rd day of October 2019.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

T. A. Loski
Commissioner