



**ORDER NUMBER
G-75-21**

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

and

Nelson Hydro
2021 General Rate Increase Application

BEFORE:

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

on March 15, 2021

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On November 30, 2020, Nelson Hydro filed an application (Application) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for approval of a general annual rate increase of 2.3 percent for the Rural service area for the calendar year, pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA). Nelson Hydro proposes the general annual rate increase to become effective on April 1, 2021, which results in a compounded rate increase of 3.32 percent;
- B. Nelson Hydro is owned and operated by the City of Nelson and is exempt from regulation under the 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. In the Application, Nelson Hydro requests that the 3.32 percent general rate increase be approved on an interim and refundable basis, effective as of April 1, 2021, pending the outcome of the proceeding;
- D. By Order G-347-20 dated December 22, 2020, the BCUC established an initial regulatory timetable, which included one round of BCUC information requests (IR); and
- E. The Panel has reviewed Nelson Hydro's responses to IR No. 1 and considers that a second round of IRs is warranted. The Panel also considers that approval of the requested interim rate is warranted on a refundable/recoverable basis, effective April 1, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to sections 59–61 and 89 of the UCA, the BCUC orders as follows:

- 1. Nelson Hydro's requested rate increase of 3.32 percent that applies to all Rural customer classes is approved on an interim and refundable/recoverable basis, effective April 1, 2021.

2. Nelson Hydro is directed to provide the BCUC with final certified copies of the amended interim rate schedules within 10 business days of enactment by the City of Nelson's municipal council.
3. The BCUC will determine the manner by which any variance between the approved interim rates and permanent rates, including interest if any, will be refunded to or collected from Rural ratepayers at the time the BCUC renders its final decision on the Application.
4. An update to the regulatory timetable is established and attached as Appendix A to this order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 15th day of March 2021.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

R. I. Mason
Commissioner

Attachment

Nelson Hydro
2021 General Rate Increase Application

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2021)
BCUC Information Request (IR) No. 2	Tuesday, March 30
Nelson Hydro response to BCUC IR No. 2	Tuesday, April 13
Further process	To be determined