



**ORDER NUMBER
G-240-21**

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

and

Creative Energy Vancouver Platforms Inc.
Extension Request Related to Proposed NEFC Rate Design and Order G-227-20

BEFORE:

A. K. Fung, QC, Panel Chair
K. A. Keilty, Commissioner

on August 11, 2021

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. Directive 13 b. of British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) Order G-227-20 directed Creative Energy Vancouver Platforms Inc. (Creative Energy) to file a comprehensive proposal for a Northeast False Creek (NEFC) rate design and for setting 2022 rates by June 30, 2021 (NEFC Rate Design and 2022 Rate Application);
- B. By letter dated June 22, 2021 the BCUC granted Creative Energy's request for an extension to file its NEFC Rate Design and 2022 Rate Application by July 31, 2021;
- C. By letter dated July 23, 2021, Creative Energy requested a further extension to file its NEFC Rate Design and 2022 Rate Application on or before September 30, 2021, in order to allow time to review its proposal with its Board of Directors at the next Board meeting scheduled for September 21, 2021 (Extension Request);
- D. In the Extension Request, Creative Energy submits that it "does not expect that this extended filing date will impede the setting of just and reasonable rates for 2022 given the required filing also of the 2022 NEFC cost of service and revenue requirement, as expected in November 2021"; and
- E. The BCUC has reviewed the Extension Request and considers that a variance to Directive 13 b. of BCUC Order G-227-20 is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE for the reasons outlined in Appendix A to this order, the BCUC orders that Directive 13 b. of BCUC Order G-227-20 is varied as follows:

1. File concurrently a comprehensive proposal for NEFC rate design and its NEFC revenue requirements and rates application, for at least 2022, by November 1, 2021.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 11th day of August 2021.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

A. K. Fung, QC
Commissioner

Attachment

Creative Energy Vancouver Platforms Inc.
Extension Request Related to Proposed NEFC Rate Design and Order G-227-20

REASONS FOR DECISION

Directive 13 b. of British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) Order G-227-20 directs Creative Energy Vancouver Platforms Inc. (Creative Energy) to file “a comprehensive proposal for [a Northeast False Creek] NEFC rate design and for setting 2022 rates by June 30, 2022” (NEFC Rate Design and 2022 Rate Application).¹

Further, in Creative Energy’s request to extend the filing deadline for the NEFC Rate Design and 2022 Rate Application to September 30, 2021, Creative Energy submits that it “does not expect that this extended filing date will impede the setting of just and reasonable rates for 2022 given the required filing also of the 2022 NEFC cost of service and revenue requirement, as expected in November 2021.”²

The Panel interprets the above-noted statement made by Creative Energy to indicate that it intends to file two separate applications, a comprehensive rate design proposal and a separate application for 2022 rates. In the interest of regulatory efficiency, the Panel considers it more appropriate for Creative Energy to file both the rate design and 2022 rates application concurrently as one application. The Panel also recognizes that additional time may be required for the utility to prepare an application that covers both topics. Accordingly, **Directive 13 b. of BCUC Order G-227-20 is varied as follows:**

File concurrently a comprehensive proposal for NEFC rate design and its NEFC revenue requirements and rates application, for at least 2022, by November 1, 2021.

The Panel recommends that Creative Energy consider a rate design for NEFC that sets rates for a period longer than one year, bearing in mind established rate-setting principles including the BCUC guidelines for Stream B TES utilities.³

¹ Creative Energy 2019-2020 Revenue Requirements Application for the Core Steam System and Northeast False Creek Service Areas, Decision and Final Order G-227-20 dated September 2, 2020

² Exhibit B-1, Creative Energy Extension Request

³ BCUC Thermal Energy Systems Guidelines, p. 17