



ORDER NUMBER
G-272-22

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

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Complaint filed by Gitga'at First Nation regarding Remote Community Electrification Program Fees

BEFORE:

C. M. Brewer, Panel Chair
A. K. Fung, KC, Commissioner
T. A. Loski, Commissioner

on September 28, 2022

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On April 5, 2022, Gitga'at First Nation (GFN) filed a complaint with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) concerning charges billed by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) (Complaint);
- B. In the Complaint, GFN details that it is a remote community to which BC Hydro extended electrical service under the Province of British Columbia's Remote Community Electrification (RCE) Program, and that in addition to paying Zone II rates as set out in BC Hydro's Electric Tariff, GFN has been charged an annual charge of approximately \$85,000 in relation to an Electricity Service Agreement with BC Hydro, dated 2014 (Electricity Servicing Charge). GFN submits that the Electricity Servicing Charge violates section 63 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, as it is a term or condition of service that was not reviewed and approved by the BCUC;
- C. On August 30, 2022, the BCUC directed BC Hydro to file additional documents, including the signed Memorandum of Understanding between Canada, the Government of British Columbia and BC Hydro (Canada MOU), the signed Memorandum of Understanding between GFN and BC Hydro, all correspondence with GFN prior to the filing of the Complaint, and any other documents considered relevant to the Complaint (Additional Information);
- D. BC Hydro submitted the Additional Information on September 13, 2022; and
- E. The BCUC, after reviewing the Complaint and Additional Information, finds that a public hearing to review this matter is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE the BCUC orders as follows:

1. The Regulatory Timetable for the review of the Complaint is established as set out in Appendix A to this order. Parties who wish to actively participate in the proceeding are to register with the BCUC by completing a Request to Intervene Form, available on the BCUC's website under Get Involved, by the date established in the Regulatory Timetable and in accordance with the BCUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure attached to Order G-178-22.
2. BC Hydro is directed to provide a copy of this order and the public notice, attached as Appendix B to:
(i) Indigenous Services Canada or such other Federal government department as may be responsible for the administration of the Canada MOU; (ii) the Acting Executive Director, Electricity Policy and Regulatory Branch of the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation; (iii) registered interveners in the BC Hydro F2023 to F2025 Revenue Requirements Application proceeding; and (iv) Zone II customers, by no later than Friday, October 21, 2022.
3. BC Hydro is directed to provide to the BCUC, by Friday, October 21, 2022, a list of those who received notice of the Complaint, as directed in Directive 2 of this order.
4. BC Hydro is directed to post this order and the public notice in a clearly visible location on the homepage of its website, on or before Friday, October 21, 2022.
5. BC Hydro is directed to publish the public notice attached as Appendix B to this order, on all its current social media platforms, on or before Friday, October 21, 2022.
6. Letters of comment submitted in the Complaint must be in the Letter of Comment Form available on the BCUC's website at <https://www.bcuc.com/Forms/LetterOfComment>, or submitted by email to commission.secretary@bcuc.com.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 29th day of September 2022.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

C. M. Brewer
Commissioner

Attachment

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
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REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2022/2023)
Public Notice	Friday, October 21
BC Hydro to provide confirmation of compliance with Public Notice requirements	Monday, October 24
Intervener registration	Friday, November 4
BCUC Information Request (IR) No. 1 to BC Hydro	Thursday, November 10
BC Hydro response to BCUC IR No. 1	Thursday, November 24
BCUC IR No. 1 to GFN	Thursday, December 8
GFN and Intervener IR No. 1 to BC Hydro	Thursday, December 15
BC Hydro response to GFN and Intervener IR No. 1	Thursday, January 5
GFN response to BCUC IR No. 1	Thursday, January 12
Further process	To be determined



We want to hear from you

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Complaint filed by Gitga'at First Nation regarding Remote Community Electrification Program Fees

On April 5, 2022, Gitga'at First Nation (GFN) filed a complaint with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) concerning an annual charge of approximately \$85,000, paid to BC Hydro in relation to its electricity service. GFN submits that the charge violates section 63 of the *Utilities Commission Act*.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- **Submit a letter of comment**
- **Register as an interested party**
- **Request intervener status**

IMPORTANT DATES

1. **Friday, November 4, 2022** – Deadline to register as an intervener with the BCUC

For more information about the Complaint, please visit the [Proceeding Webpage](#) on bcuc.com under "Our Work – Proceedings". To learn more about getting involved, please visit our website at www.bcuc.com/get-involved or contact us at the information below.

GET MORE INFORMATION

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority



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British Columbia Utilities Commission



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