



ORDER NUMBER

G-6-23

IN THE MATTER OF

the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

British Columbia Utilities Commission

An Inquiry into the Regulation of Municipal Energy Utilities

BEFORE:

T. A. Loski, Panel Chair

C. M. Brewer, Commissioner

W. M. Everett, KC, Commissioner

B. A. Magnan, Commissioner

on January 13, 2023

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. By Order G-177-19 dated August 1, 2019, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) established an inquiry to examine the regulation of energy utilities affiliated with municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia (Inquiry);
- B. By Order G-381-21 dated December 17, 2021, the BCUC determined that the Inquiry would be conducted in two stages, with Stage 1 focusing on wholly owned and operated Local Government Corporations (LGCs) and Stage 2 addressing the regulatory considerations for other variations of utilities affiliated with municipalities and regional districts;
- C. On November 10, 2022, the BCUC issued the Final Stage 1 report. In that report, the BCUC finds that LGCs, wholly owned and operated by a Local Government and providing energy utility services exclusively within the boundaries of that Local Government, are public utilities. The Panel further finds that, subject to an annual reporting requirement, a recommendation to the Government of British Columbia for a class of persons exemption for these LGCs from the operation of section 71 and Part 3 of the UCA, excluding sections 24, 25, 38, 42 and 43 is warranted and properly conserves the public interest;
- D. Also on November 10, 2022, the BCUC indicated that further information on Stage 2 of the Inquiry would be provided in due course; and
- E. The Panel considers that adjourning Stage 2 of the Inquiry pending a government determination on the BCUC's recommended exemption for wholly owned and operated LGCs would support efficiency in the regulatory review of the regulatory considerations for other variations of utilities affiliated with municipalities and regional districts.

NOW THEREFORE the BCUC orders that Stage 2 of the Inquiry is adjourned.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 13th day of January 2023.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

T. A. Loski
Commissioner