

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250  
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6Z 2N3  
CANADA



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER  
NUMBER G-125-96

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700  
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385  
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

IN THE MATTER OF  
the Utilities Commission Act, S.B.C. 1980, c. 60, as amended  
and

A Hearing into the Issue of Retail Access and Unbundled Tariffs  
under Sections 85.2 and 97 of the Utilities Commission Act

**BEFORE:** M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson ) December 19, 1996

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On November 27, 1996 West Kootenay Power Ltd. ("WKP") filed with the Commission an Application for Transmission Capacity Service and Ancillary Service for its wholesale, industrial and large general service customers and for the creation of an Independent Transmission System Operator; and
- B. On December 2, 1996 certain British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") Rate Schedule 1821-Transmission Service customers requested that the Commission require B.C. Hydro to file amendments to its Wholesale Transmission Service Tariff to permit use of that service by Rate Schedule 1821 customers; and
- C. On December 9, 1996 the Commission sent a letter to Intervenor indicating that it was proposing to convene a hearing on the issue of retail access and unbundled tariffs, pursuant to Section 97 of the Utilities Commission Act, and asked for comments on the proposed action and the scope of the proposed hearing by December 17, 1996; and
- D. On December 11, 1996 the Commission received a request from B.C. Hydro to delay the filing of its Application with respect to Wholesale Transmission Services from January 1, 1997 as ordered by Commission Decision and Order No. G-67-96 until February 15, 1997; and
- E. The Commission received comments on the extension request from certain Rate Schedule 1821 customers, the British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Centre, and Willis Energy Services Ltd. on behalf of the City of New Westminster; and
- F. The Commission received comments on the proposed retail access hearing from B.C. Hydro, WKP, certain Rate Schedule 1821 customers, the Natural Resource Industries, the Kootenay-Okanagan Electric Consumers Association, the B.C. Public Interest Advocacy Centre, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainable Energy Policy, Trans Mountain Pipe Line Company Ltd., and the Department of Energy - Bonneville Power Administration; and
- G. On December 19, 1996 the Commission met to discuss the request for extension to B.C. Hydro's Wholesale Transmission Tariff Application and the responses to their December 9, 1996 letter.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission orders as follows:

1. Pursuant to Sections 85.2 and 97 of the Act, the Commission orders that the issue of retail access and unbundled tariffs be set down for public hearing to commence at 8:30 a.m. on March 10, 1997 in the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor - 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. A Notice of Public Hearing and Pre-Hearing Conference is attached as Appendix B to this Order.
2. A Regulatory Timetable for the review of the Application is attached as Appendix A to this Order and summarizes the key dates in the public review process determined at this time. Further dates will be the subject of a future Commission Order to be issued after the pre-hearing conference to be held January 24, 1997.
4. B.C. Hydro and WKP are to publish, in display ad format in the Business Sections of the Vancouver Sun and Province and in local community newspapers in their respective service territories, the attached Appendix B - Notice of Public Hearing and Pre-Hearing Conference by January 10, 1997, or as soon thereafter as possible.
5. An extension to filing B.C. Hydro's Wholesale Transmission Services Application is granted until February 15, 1997.
6. The disposition of West Kootenay Power Limited's Application for Transmission Capacity Service and Ancillary Service will be the subject of a future Order to be issued after the January 24, 1997 pre-hearing conference.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 19th day of December, 1996.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Dr. Mark K. Jaccard  
Chairperson

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## REGULATORY TIMETABLE

### A Hearing into the Issue of Retail Access and Unbundled Tariffs

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE (1997)</b>
Deadline for publication of Hearing Notice	January 10
Deadline to register as Intervenors or Interested Parties	January 17
Commission Staff Issues List to be Circulated	January 20
Pre-Hearing Conference	January 24
Further Commission Order, if necessary, based on input from Pre-Hearing Conference	January 27
Deadline for requests for Participant Assistance	January 27
Public Hearing begins in Vancouver	March 10



ROBERT J. PELLATT  
COMMISSION SECRETARY

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

A Hearing into the Issue of Retail Access and Unbundled Tariffs

	<b>Pre-Hearing Conference</b>	<b>Public Hearing</b>
Time:	8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Date:	January 24, 1997	March 10, 1997
Location:	B.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Room 6th Floor - 900 Howe Street Vancouver, B.C.	B.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Room 6th Floor - 900 Howe Street Vancouver, B.C.

### THE APPLICATION

On November 27, 1996 West Kootenay Power Ltd., filed with the Commission an Application for Transmission Capacity Service and Ancillary Service for its wholesale, industrial and large general service customers and the creation of an Independent Transmission System Operator. In addition, on December 2, 1996, certain British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") Rate Schedule 1821 customers requested that the Commission require B.C. Hydro to file amendments to its Wholesale Transmission Service Tariff to permit use of that service by Rate Schedule 1821 customers. In response to these two events, the Commission has decided to hold a hearing into the issue of retail access and unbundled tariffs.

### THE REGULATORY PROCESS

As outlined in the Regulatory Timetable attached as Appendix A to Order No. G-125-96, the Commission will hold a pre-hearing conference on January 24, 1997 to discuss the phasing and scope of the hearing along with other issues requiring clarification in advance of the March 10, 1997 public hearing.

## **INTERVENTIONS**

Intervenors and Interested Parties who wish to take part in the Hearing are to advise the Commission Secretary, in writing, of their intention to participate in the proceedings no later than January 17, 1997.

## **PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE**

All parties intending to apply for Participant Assistance must file a budget by January 27, 1997 consistent with the Commission's Policy and Rate Sheet as outlined in Order No. G-103-96. Copies of the Participant Assistance Policy and Rate Sheet are available from the Commission upon request.

## **CLARIFICATION**

Persons intending to participate in the Pre-Hearing Conference and who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed, may contact Mr. Robert Pellatt, Commission Secretary or Ms. Deborah Emes, Manager, Strategic Services by telephone at (604) 660-4700, or B.C. Toll Free at 1-800-663-1385, or in writing to the above address or by facsimile at (604) 660-1102. The Commission can also be reached on the Internet at [bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca).

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Robert J. Pellatt