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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 64, 85.2 and 97 of the Utilities Commission Act

**BEFORE:** M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson ) January 24, 1997

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On December 19, 1996 the Commission issued Order No. G-125-96 setting down a public hearing into the issue of retail access and unbundled tariffs to commence on March 10, 1997. Included in the Order was provision for a prehearing conference to take place January 24, 1997; and
- B. On January 24, 1997 the prehearing conference occurred, at which certain parties presented arguments as to why a delay in the hearing was required; and
- C. On January 24, 1997, subsequent to the prehearing conference, the Commission received a letter from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258 ("IBEW"), a Registered Intervenor, requesting that the hearing be adjourned until a government policy direction is received with respect to retail access. Further, if the Commission proceeds with the hearing, the IBEW asked that the hearing not include a discussion of the benefits of an Independent System Operator; and
- D. On January 24, 1997, the Commission met to discuss the request for adjournment and the requests for delay.

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

- 1. The public hearing into the issue of retail access and unbundled tariffs set down for public hearing on March 10, 1997 will be delayed. The hearing will now commence at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 1997 in Vancouver. The exact location of the hearing will be announced at a later date.

2. The Commission will visit locations in the Interior of the Province to receive information from the public on this issue after the close of the evidentiary portion of the hearing in Vancouver. Exact locations and times will be established by way of a future Commission Order.
3. Submissions on the issue of retail access and unbundled tariffs are due no later than Monday, March 10, 1997.
4. Information Requests regarding the submissions are to be made as soon thereafter as practicable. Responses to the Information Requests will be due within two weeks of their receipt.
5. A prehearing conference to discuss the ordering of witness panels is set down for Friday, March 14, 1997 in the Commission's Hearing Room, 6th Floor- 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.
6. The deadline for requests for participant assistance is extended to Friday, January 31, 1997.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 27th day of January, 1997.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Dr. Mark K. Jaccard  
Chairperson