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**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER** G-84-03

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
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**IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473**

and

**British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
2004/05 and 2005/06 Revenue Requirements Application**

BEFORE: R.H. Hobbs, Chair)
L.A. Boychuk, Commissioner) December 16, 2003
M. Birch, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") filed on December 15, 2003, pursuant to the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), an application to increase its rates by 7.23 percent effective April 1, 2004 and by 2.00 percent effective April 1, 2005 ("the Application"); and
- B. The Application also seeks approval of three new deferral accounts and a reduction in certain wholesale transmission service rates; and
- C. The covering letter to the Application contains a proposed schedule leading to an oral public hearing in 2004; and
- D. The Commission, in its desire to deal efficiently with the Application, requires that a Pre-hearing Conference and Workshop be established.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. A Pre-hearing Conference will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Crowne Plaza Hotel Georgia, 801 West Georgia Street, Vancouver B.C. V6C 1P7, to address procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - identification of principal issues arising from the Application,
 - process steps for review of the Application,
 - timetable (information requests, responses, intervenor evidence, etc.),
 - location(s) of the proceeding, and
 - other matters that will assist the Commission to efficiently review all aspects of the Application.

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After the Pre-hearing Conference, the Commission will issue a further procedural order and regulatory agenda for the review of the Application.

2. B.C. Hydro will hold an initial workshop on the Application on Thursday, January 15, 2004, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Crowne Plaza Hotel Georgia, 801 West Georgia Street, Vancouver B.C. V6C 1P7.
3. B.C. Hydro will arrange for early publication, but not later than December 31, 2003, in display ad format, the Notice of Pre-hearing Conference and Workshop, attached as Appendix A to this Order, in the Vancouver Sun, The Province, the Victoria Times Colonist, and in such other appropriate local news publications so as to provide adequate notice to the customers in the service area of the utility.
4. The Application and supporting material will be made available for inspection at the Head Office of B.C. Hydro at 333 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B.C., at Regional Offices located in its service area, and at the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.
5. Intervenors and Interested Parties should inform the Commission, in writing, by Monday, January 12, 2004, of their intention to intervene and/or to attend the Pre-hearing Conference and Workshop.
6. Intervenors intending to apply for participant assistance must submit a budget estimate by Friday, January 30, 2004 consistent with the Commission's Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines. Copies are available upon request or can be downloaded from the Commission's web site at <http://www.bcuc.com/bcuc/paca.html>.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 16th day of December 2003.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert H. Hobbs
Chair

Attachment



**BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY
2004/05 and 2005/06 Revenue Requirements Application**

**NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE
AND WORKSHOP**

Pre-Hearing Conference

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2004
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel Georgia
801 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.

B.C. Hydro Workshop

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2004
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel Georgia
801 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.

THE APPLICATION

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") filed on December 15, 2003, pursuant to the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), an application to increase its rates by 7.23 percent effective April 1, 2004 and by 2.00 percent effective April 1, 2005 ("the Application"). The Application also seeks approval of three new deferral accounts and a reduction in certain wholesale transmission service rates

The covering letter to the Application contains a proposed schedule leading to an oral public hearing in 2004.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference in Vancouver on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Crowne Plaza Hotel Georgia, 801 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1P7, to address procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- identification of principal issues arising from the Application,
- process steps for review of the Application,
- timetable (information requests, responses, intervenor evidence, etc.),
- location(s) of the proceeding, and
- other matters that will enable assist the Commission to efficiently review all aspects of the Application.

Following the Pre-hearing Conference, the Commission will issue a further procedural order and regulatory agenda for the review of the Application.

B.C. Hydro will hold an initial workshop on the Application on Thursday, January 15, 2004, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Crowne Plaza Hotel Georgia, 801 West Georgia Street, Vancouver B.C. V6C 1P7.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The Application and supporting material will be made available for inspection at the following locations:

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

Head Office: 17th Floor - 333 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B.C.
(604) 623-4046

Regional Offices

British Columbia Utilities Commission

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.

The Application is available for viewing on B.C. Hydro's web site at www.bchydro.com.

INTERVENTIONS

Persons who expect to actively participate in the proceeding should register as Intervenor with the Commission, in writing, by Monday, January 12, 2004 identifying their interest in the Application, indicating if they plan to attend the Pre-hearing Conference and/or Workshop and providing an e-mail address if available. Intervenor will receive copies of the Application, all correspondence and filed documentation.

Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the Application, should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by Monday, January 12, 2004 identifying their interest in the matter and indicating if they plan to attend the Pre-hearing Conference and/or Workshop. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Application's Overview and all Orders issued.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Barry McKinlay, Manager, Rates and Finance, as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385

Facsimile: (604) 660-1102
E-Mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com