

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER** G-163-09

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SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250
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**IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473**

and

**An Application by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
for the Southern St'at'imc Communities Electrification Project**

BEFORE: L.F. Kelsey, Commissioner
D.A. Cote, Commissioner
P.E. Vivian, Commissioner

December 17, 2009

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 1, 2009, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("BC Hydro") filed an application (the "Application") with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (the "Commission") for acceptance, pursuant to sections 44.2(1)(b) and 58 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (the "Act"), that capital expenditures BC Hydro and British Columbia Transmission Corporation anticipate making in respect of the Southern St'at'imc Communities Electrification Project ("Project") are in the public interest; and
- B. The Project has an estimated capital cost of approximately \$30 million, comprised of approximately \$12 million contribution from BC Hydro's ratepayers, \$9 million from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and \$9 million from the St'at'imc, which includes the construction of two single phase transformer substations, 30 km of single phase distribution line and acquisition of existing distribution assets to service approximately 60 homes and common buildings in the Communities of Baptiste Smith, Skookumchuk, Tipella and Port Douglas located in the Lillooet River Valley, Southeast of Mount Currie and Northwest of Harrison Lake; and
- C. The Application also requests approval pursuant to sections 58 to 61 of the Act, to apply Rate Zone I rates and terms and conditions under the BC Hydro Electric Tariff in the Southern St'at'imc Communities; and
- D. BC Hydro held a workshop on the Application on December 14, 2009 and several parties filed written comments on the process for the review of the Application; and
- E. The Commission has determined that a written public hearing is needed for review of the Application under section 44.2 of the Act.

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NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. A Written Public Hearing for the review of the Application is established according to the Regulatory Timetable set out in Appendix A to this Order.
2. The Commission requires BC Hydro to publish, as soon as possible, in display ad format, the Notice attached as Appendix B to this Order in the Vancouver Sun, the Province, the Victoria Times Colonist and such other appropriate local news publications as may properly provide adequate notice in the area to be served by the Project.
3. The Commission requires BC Hydro to provide a copy of this Order to the Skatin First Nations, Samahquam First Nation, Xa'xtsa First Nation, and the Lower Stl'atl'imx Tribal Council through their Chief and Council contacts.
4. The Application, together with any supporting materials, will be made available for inspection at the BC Hydro Head Office, 333 Dunsmuir Street, BC V6B 5R3, the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3 and also the Skatin First Nations, Samahquam First Nation, Xa'xtsa First Nation, and the Lower Stl'atl'imx Tribal Council through their Chief and Council contacts.
5. Intervenor or Interested Parties should register with the Commission, in writing or by electronic submission, by Monday, January 4, 2010. Intervenor should specifically state the nature of their interest in the Application and identify generally the nature of the issues that they may intend to pursue during the proceeding and the nature and extent of their anticipated involvement in the review process.
6. Any party intending to file for a Participant Assistance Cost Award ("PACA") must submit its PACA budget, pursuant to the PACA Guidelines attached to Order G-72-07 to the Commission, by Thursday, January 7, 2010. A complete description of the PACA Guidelines is available at the Commission's web site:
http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Guidelines/2007/DOC_5014_G-72-07_PACA_2007_Guidelines.pdf

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 18th day of December 2009.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D.A. Cote
Commissioner

Attachments

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REGULATORY TIMETABLE

ACTION	DATE (2009)
Filing of Application	Tuesday, December 1
	DATE (2010)
Intervenor and Interested Party Registrations	Monday, January 4
Participant Assistance Cost Award Budget Submissions	Thursday, January 7
Commission Information Request No. 1	Monday, January 11
Intervenor Information Request No. 1	Thursday, January 14
BC Hydro Response to Information Requests	Friday, January 29
BC Hydro Final Submission	Friday, February 5
Intervenor Final Submissions	Friday, February 12
BC Hydro Reply Submission	Friday, February 19



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND WRITTEN PUBLIC HEARING

THE APPLICATION

On December 1, 2009, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("BC Hydro") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (the "Commission") for approval to connect the Southern St'at'imc Communities of Baptiste Smith, Skookumchuk, Tipella and Port Douglas to the BC Hydro integrated electricity grid (the "Project"). The Project is located in the Lillooet River Valley, Southeast of Mount Currie and Northwest of Harrison Lake.

As part of its Remote Community Electrification ("RCE") Program, BC Hydro proposes to acquire the present distribution system, build 30 km of new distribution lines and construct two single phase substations, which will be connected to the existing 360 kilovolt transmission line. The Project is estimated to cost BC Hydro \$12.1 million.

In 2006 BC Hydro developed a long term objective "to provide appropriate electrical services to all remote communities on an equitable basis" and, in support of this, created the RCE Program within BC Hydro.

BC Hydro further proposes to apply Rate Zone I rates and terms and conditions under the BC Hydro Electric Tariff in the Southern St'at'imc Communities.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

Commission Order G-163-09 established the Regulatory Timetable for the review of the Application by way of a Written Public Hearing. The detailed Regulatory Timetable can be reviewed on the Commission's website <http://www.bcuc.com>>Proceedings&Agendas>Current Applications.

INTERVENTIONS

Persons who expect to actively participate in the BC Hydro proceeding should register as Intervenor with the Commission, in writing, by Monday, January 4, 2010, identifying their interest in the Application. Intervenor will receive copies of the Application as well as all correspondence and filed documentation and should provide an email address if available.

Persons not expecting to actively participate in the BC Hydro proceeding, but who have an interest in the Application, should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by Monday, January 4, 2010. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Introduction of the Application and a copy of the Commission's Decision when issued.

All submissions and/or correspondence received from active participants or the general public relating to the Application will be placed on the public record and posted to the Commission's web site.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

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

Skatin First Nations, Samahquam First Nation, Xa'xtsa First Nation, and the Lower Stl'atl'imx Tribal Council through their Chief and Council contacts.

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

Regulatory Compliance & Filings

16th Floor – 333 Dunsmuir St.

Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3

<http://www.bchydro.com/>

British Columbia Utilities Commission

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street

Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Telephone: 1-800-663-1385

<http://www.bcuc.com/>

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Commission Secretary, Ms. Erica Hamilton or Mr. Brian Williston, Director, Engineering and Energy Markets as follows:

Ms. Erica Hamilton

Telephone: (604) 660-4700

Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com

BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385

Mr. Brian Williston

Email: brian.williston@bcuc.com

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