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**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER C-3-10**

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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 Transmission Corporation
for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
for the Vancouver City Central Transmission Project**

BEFORE: A.A. Rhodes, Commissioner/Panel Chair
L.A. O'Hara, Commissioner June 2, 2010
A.J. Pullman, Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

WHEREAS:

- A. On September 21, 2009, the British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC) applied (the Application), pursuant to sections 45 and 46 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (the Act), to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to construct and operate the Vancouver City Central Transmission Project (the VCCT Project) as described in this Application; and
- B. BCTC is proposing the VCCT Project as the preferred solution to: i) serve load growth in the Mount Pleasant/South False Creek area, ii) resolve reliability concerns associated with the end of life condition of the Main Street distribution duct banks being used to serve the Mount Pleasant/South False Creek area, and iii) resolve reliability concerns in view of the zero-rating of transmission circuit 2L53; and
- C. The VCCT Project as originally filed, had an estimated capital cost of approximately \$174 million and a further \$27 million to be incurred for British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority's Substation Distribution Assets (SDA), which were not at that time the subject of the Application, and included the construction of a new Mount Pleasant substation and a new transmission line approximately 8 km in length that follows the route described in the Application as Route Option B; and
- D. In the F2010/2011 BCTC Capital Plan Decision, dated July 13, 2009, the Commission directed BCTC to work with British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) to either accept its proposal to have BCTC or BC Hydro seek regulatory approval for the entire project, including both transmission and SDA components, or develop an alternative approach and directed BCTC and BC Hydro to provide their report within 90 days from the date of Decision; and

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- E. On October 21, 2009, BCTC filed amendments to its Application to incorporate an application for an order issuing a CPCN to BC Hydro for the construction and operation of the VCCT Substation Distribution Assets ; and
- F. On Wednesday, November 25, 2009, the Commission held a Procedural Conference to hear submissions on the appropriate regulatory process for the review of the Application; and
- G. By Order G-159-09 dated December 16, 2009, the Commission directed that the Application be reviewed by way of a Written public hearing process; and
- H. The Written public hearing process concluded with the filing of BCTC's Reply submission on April 15, 2010; and
- I. The Commission Panel has reviewed the evidence and submissions of all of the parties and determines that the Project is in the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to section 45 of the Act, the Commission orders as follows:

- 1. A CPCN is granted to BCTC for the VCCT Project and a further CPCN is granted to BC Hydro for the construction of the VCCT Substation Distribution Assets, as applied-for.
- 2. BCTC and BC Hydro are to comply with the directives in the Commission's Decision issued concurrently with this Order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this *Second* day of June 2010.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

A. A. Rhodes
Commissioner/Panel Chair