



**ORDER NUMBER
G-69-17**

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

E-Plus Homeowners Group
Application for Reconsideration and Variance of Order G-5-17
in the matter of the BC Hydro 2015 Rate Design Application

BEFORE:

D. M. Morton, Commissioner/Panel Chair
D. A. Cote, Commissioner
K. A. Keilty, Commissioner

on May 12, 2017

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On February 19, 2017, the E-Plus Homeowners Group (EPHG) filed an application for reconsideration and variance of that part of Order G-5-17 dealing with the residential E-plus rate, pursuant to section 99 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (Act) (EPHG Application for Reconsideration);
- B. On January 20, 2017, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Order G-5-17 and the accompanying Decision in the matter of the British Columbia Power and Hydro Authority (BC Hydro) 2015 Rate Design Application (Rate Design Decision). Directive 3 of Order G-5-17 states:

BC Hydro is directed to phase out the Residential E-Plus rate program over five years, commencing April 1, 2017. BC Hydro is directed to submit a compliance filing within 30 days of the date of this decision which outlines a proposal for achieving the five-year phase-out period of the E-Plus program and which results in rates being charged to E-Plus customers at the end of the five-year phase-out period that equate to other British Columbia residential customers at that time. BC Hydro is directed to waive the requirement of having an alternative heating system in working order and to eliminate the possibility of service being interrupted over the five-year transition period;

- C. By letter dated February 16, 2017, the Commission granted an extension to the deadline for the BC Hydro compliance filing required by directive 3 of Order G-5-17 to June 1, 2017;
- D. By letter dated February 24, 2017, the Commission established phase one of the reconsideration process for the EPHG Application for Reconsideration and invited submissions from BC Hydro and all registered interveners in the BC Hydro 2015 Rate Design Application proceeding that address specific questions on whether the threshold for reconsideration has been met;

- E. The Commission received submissions from BC Hydro and BC Sustainable Energy Association and the Sierra Club of British Columbia (BCSEA) and a reply submission from EPHG;
- F. By Order G-55-17 dated April 13, 2017, the Commission established phase two of the reconsideration process, with the scope limited to the duration and shape of the phase out of the residential E-plus rate, and a regulatory timetable. The Commission also suspended the requirement for BC Hydro to submit a compliance filing regarding the residential E-plus rate, as required by directive 3 of Order G-5-17, pending the outcome of the phase two reconsideration process;
- G. BC Hydro and BCSEA registered as interveners in phase two of the reconsideration process;
- H. On May 1, 2017, EPHG filed evidence in accordance with the regulatory timetable established by Order G-55-17; and
- I. The Commission has reviewed the evidentiary record and considers that a further regulatory timetable should be established.

NOW THEREFORE the British Columbia Utilities Commission orders as follows:

- 1. A regulatory timetable for phase two of the reconsideration process for the EPHG Application for Reconsideration is established and is attached as Appendix A to this order.
- 2. BC Hydro is directed to file evidence on or before June 6, 2017 with an analysis of the phase out of the residential E-plus rate by the end of each of five, seven and ten years from April 1, 2017. Each analysis must include the following scenarios:
 - a. Scenario 1: Bill impact evenly distributed over the phase out period.
 - b. Scenario 2: Bill impact weighted towards the end of the phase out period.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 12th day of May, 2017.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D.M. Morton
Commissioner

Attachments

E-Plus Homeowners Group
Application for Reconsideration and Variance of Order G-5-17
in the matter of the BC Hydro 2015 Rate Design Application

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

ACTION	2017
Intervener Participant Assistance/Cost Award Budget Deadline	Wednesday, May 24
BC Hydro Evidence	Tuesday, June 6
Commission and Intervener Information Requests on EPHG Evidence	Tuesday, June 20
Commission, Intervener and EPHG Information Requests on BC Hydro Evidence	Tuesday, June 20
EPHG and BC Hydro Responses to Information Requests	Wednesday, July 5
EPHG Final Argument	Wednesday, July 19
Intervener Reply Argument	Wednesday, July 26
EPHG Reply Argument	Thursday, August 3