



**ORDER NUMBER**  
**G-49-20**

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

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
Transmission Service Market Reference-Priced Rates Application

**BEFORE:**

T. A. Loski, Panel Chair  
A. K. Fung, QC, Commissioner  
E. B. Lockhart, Commissioner

on March 12, 2020

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On October 31, 2019, the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) filed an application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) seeking approvals of an amended Freshet Rate (Rate Schedule 1892) and a new optional rate on a pilot basis, the Incremental Energy Rate (Rate Schedule 1893), pursuant to sections 58 to 60 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (Application);
- B. The Freshet Rate was approved by Order G-17-16, on a pilot basis, as part of the BC Hydro 2015 Rate Design Application. The Freshet Rate pilot provides participating customers market pricing for incremental consumption during the freshet period (May 1 to July 31 inclusive);
- C. By Orders G-45-18, G-106-19, and G-224-19, the BCUC approved extensions to the Freshet Rate pilot and directed BC Hydro to file its application for a permanent Freshet Rate, together with the 2019 Freshet Rate pilot evaluation report, by no later than October 31, 2019;
- D. In the Application, BC Hydro requests approval of an amended Freshet Rate (Rate Schedule 1892) to be made available on an ongoing basis, commencing April 1, 2020 with no fixed termination date. BC Hydro has indicated that it is proceeding to enroll customers for the 2020 freshet period on the premise that the BCUC will grant its approval prior to May 1, 2020;
- E. As part of the Application, BC Hydro requests that the Incremental Energy Rate, Rate Schedule (RS) 1893, be approved effective January 1, 2020 on an interim and non-refundable basis, which the BCUC approved via Order G-300-19. The Incremental Energy Rate will be offered on a non-firm, interruptible basis for electricity usage above normal firm service (RS 1823 or RS 1828) baseline amounts and available as a pilot commencing January 1, 2020 until March 31, 2024;

- F. By Order G-327-19 dated December 12, 2019, the BCUC established a regulatory timetable for the review of the Application, including a placeholder for a Streamlined Review Process scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020;
- G. By Exhibit A-5 letter dated March 2, 2020, the BCUC established that the scope of the Streamlined Review Process will address the Freshet Rate component of the Application; and
- H. The BCUC considers that amending the regulatory timetable for the review of the Freshet Rate component of the Application is warranted.

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

- 1. The Streamlined Review Process scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020 is cancelled.
- 2. The Freshet Rate component of the Application will be reviewed through a written process. As part of their written arguments, BC Hydro and interveners are requested to make submissions and resolution, if the BCUC does not reach a decision on the Freshet Rate component of the Application before May 1, 2020.
- 3. An amended regulatory timetable is set out in Appendix A of this order. Further review process for the balance of BC Hydro's Application is to be determined.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

T. A. Loski  
Commissioner

Attachment

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
Transmission Service Market Reference Priced Rates Application

**REGULATORY TIMETABLE**  
**Freshet Rate Component**

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Action	Date (2020)
BCUC, BCUC Staff and Intervener written Information Request (IR) No. 2 to BC Hydro	Tuesday, March 17
BC Hydro written responses to IR No. 2	Wednesday, March 25
BC Hydro written final argument	Wednesday, April 1
Intervener written final argument	Wednesday, April 8
BC Hydro reply argument	Wednesday, April 15
Further process on the balance of the Application	To be determined