



ORDER NUMBER
G-139-20

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

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
COVID-19 Residential Rate Relief for Renters Application

BEFORE:

A. K. Fung, QC, Panel Chair
T.A. Loski, Commissioner
R. I. Mason, Commissioner

on June 5, 2020

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On May 14, 2020, the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) filed an application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for approval of further amendments to its Electric Tariff, pursuant to sections 59 to 61 and 91 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), to allow for residential rate relief for renters who are unable to work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and who do not have a BC Hydro account in their name but pay for their electricity service through their rent (Application). In such cases, the BC Hydro account is in the landlord's name;
- B. Prior to the filing of this Application, on April 7, 2020, pursuant to the Direction to the BCUC Respecting COVID-19 issued by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on April 2, 2020 (Order in Council No. 159 or Direction), the BCUC issued Order G-79-20, approving amendments to BC Hydro's Electric Tariff in order to provide rate relief to BC Hydro's customers impacted by changes in employment and business closures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic;
- C. By Orders G-120-20 and G-128-20, the BCUC established and later amended the Regulatory Timetable for the review of the Application, which provided for, among other items, one round of information requests from the BCUC to BC Hydro, written submissions from BC Hydro and interveners, and a web-based oral hearing, if required;
- D. On June 1, 2020, BC Hydro filed its written submissions with the BCUC as its final argument for the proceeding and indicated it is now seeking final approval of the Application instead of interim approval;
- E. On June 3, 2020, interveners filed their written submissions with the BCUC indicating they do not object to the approval sought in the Application, on a permanent basis, as requested by BC Hydro; and

- F. The BCUC has reviewed the Application, evidence filed in the proceeding and submissions made by the parties and considers that a web-based oral hearing is not required, and approval of the Application is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the UCA, the BCUC orders as follows:

1. The Electric Tariff amendments included in the Application as Appendix C are approved as filed on a permanent basis, effective June 5, 2020.
2. BC Hydro is directed to track the accruals in the Customer Crisis Fund Regulatory Account, resulting from the COVID-19 relief measures for residential renters who do not have a BC Hydro account in their name but pay for their electricity service through their rent, separately from the accruals resulting from the COVID-19 residential relief measures approved by BCUC Order G-79-20.
3. BC Hydro is directed to clearly identify in the monthly report to the BCUC, directed by directive 13 in BCUC Order G-79-20, the following:
 - a. Bill credits provided to residential renters who do not have a BC Hydro account in their name but pay for their electricity service through their rent,
 - b. BC Hydro costs for administering the COVID-19 relief measures for residential renters who do not have a BC Hydro account in their name but pay for their electricity service through their rent, and
 - c. The interest costs recorded to the Customer Crisis Fund Regulatory Account related to 3(a) and 3(b) above.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 5th day of June 2020.

BY ORDER

Original Signed By:

A. K. Fung, QC
Commissioner