



**ORDER NUMBER
G-185-23**

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

and

Nelson Hydro
2023 Revenue Requirement Application

BEFORE:

E.B. Lockhart, Panel Chair
A.C. Dennier, Commissioner
T.A. Loski, Commissioner

on July 13, 2023

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On October 28, 2022, Nelson Hydro filed an application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), seeking approval of a general annual rate increase of 9.87 percent for the Rural service area, effective on January 1, 2023, pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) (Application);
- B. Nelson Hydro is owned and operated by the City of Nelson and is excluded from regulation under the UCA to the extent it is serving customers within its municipal boundaries. Accordingly, the BCUC's review of the Application pertains solely to Nelson Hydro's non-municipal, or rural, ratepayers;
- C. By Order G-332-22A, the BCUC approved the 9.87 percent general rate increase on an interim, refundable and recoverable basis, effective January 1, 2023;
- D. Nelson Hydro also requests approval to establish the following deferral accounts:
 - i. A revenue variance deferral account to record additional revenues that Nelson Hydro may be entitled to between January 1, 2023 and the BCUC's decision on Nelson Hydro's Application for Reconsideration and Variance of Order G-196-22 and any surplus or deficit in revenue that might result from the BCUC's final decision on the Application and the interim rate increase approved in Order No. G-332-22A, effective January 1, 2023.
 - ii. A storm regulatory deferral account to smooth out the budgetary impact of major storms and other emergency outage response events, such as wildfires.
- E. Nelson Hydro submits that the proposed percentage rate increase is based on the utility's 2023 budget figures used in a Cost of Service Analysis that was approved in Order G-196-22 and seeks to transition to providing information focused on the Rural portion of the utility rather than the utility as a whole;

- F. By Order G-332-22A and G-61-23, the BCUC established the regulatory timetable for the review of the Application, which included intervenor registration, two rounds of BCUC and intervenor information requests (IRs), submissions on intervenor collaboration, one round of Panel IRs, letters of comment, and Nelson Hydro's reply comments; and
- G. The Panel has reviewed the evidence and comments filed in the proceeding and considers a further regulatory timetable is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE the BCUC furthers the regulatory timetable, attached as Appendix A to this order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 13th day of July 2023.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

E.B Lockhart
Commissioner

Attachment

Nelson Hydro
2023 Revenue Requirement Application

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2023)
Nelson Hydro's written Final Argument	Thursday, August 3
Intervener written Final Argument	Thursday August 17
Nelson Hydro written Reply Argument	Tuesday, August 31