



**ORDER NUMBER
G-192-23**

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

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Electrical Explosion Incident – Marine Building, Downtown Vancouver

BEFORE:
D. M. Morton, Commissioner

on July 21, 2023

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On February 24, 2023, an explosion and fire occurred in an underground electrical vault (Vault No. 73) owned and operated by the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro). Vault No. 73 is part of BC Hydro's distribution network that supplies power to BC Hydro customers in the Vancouver downtown core and is located on the 300 block of Burrard Street;
- B. On June 22, 2023, BC Hydro filed the results of its investigation into the incident (Post-Incident Report) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC);
- C. On June 29, 2023, the BCUC issued a request for additional information pertaining to BC Hydro's investigation and Post-Incident Report (Supplemental Information). Among other things, the BCUC requested that BC Hydro file any reports or documentation related to the safety of BC Hydro's distribution street vaults from 2016 onwards, and a copy of BC Hydro's asset management policies and procedures for the past 15 years;
- D. On July 6, 2023, BC Hydro filed the Supplemental Information with the BCUC;
- E. Section 38 of the *Utility Commission Act* states that a public utility must provide and maintain its property and equipment in a condition to enable it to provide a service to the public that the BCUC considers is in all respects adequate, safe, efficient, just and reasonable;
- F. BC Hydro's Post-Incident Report and Supplemental Information raise concerns regarding BC Hydro's safety practices and culture; and
- G. Having reviewed the information filed to date, the BCUC considers that the following determinations are warranted.

NOW THEREFORE the BCUC orders as follows:

1. BC Hydro is directed to file an independent third-party report investigating the root cause of the February 24, 2023 incident (Third-Party Report) including, but not limited to, the following areas of focus:
 - BC Hydro's culture of safety and compliance;
 - BC Hydro's asset management practices; and
 - BC Hydro's work procedures and quality control processes.
2. BC Hydro shall submit the Third-Party Report and supporting deliverables to the BCUC by the deadlines set out below:

Action	Date (2023)
BC Hydro submission identifying the third-party consultant to be retained and providing details on the consultant's experience, expertise, and independence from BC Hydro as well as the terms of their engagement	Monday, August 21
Progress Report No. 1 prepared by the third-party consultant detailing its progress on the preparation of the Third-Party Report	Friday, September 29
Progress Report No. 2 prepared by the third-party consultant detailing its progress on the preparation of the Third-Party Report	Tuesday, October 31
Third-Party Report	Thursday, November 30

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 21st day of July 2023.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D. M. Morton
Commissioner