



ORDER NUMBER
R-39-23

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

and

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Mandatory Reliability Standards Planning Coordinator
Function Registration and Planning Coordinator Issues

BEFORE:

A. K. Fung, KC, Panel Chair
C. M. Brewer, Commissioner
W. M. Everett, KC, Commissioner

on July 24, 2023

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. By Order R-8-22 dated March 14, 2022, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) established a regulatory timetable for a proceeding to review the Planning Coordinator (PC) Function Registration and Planning Coordinator Issues brought forward by the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) and interveners registered in the currently adjourned Assessment Report Proceeding for Reliability Standards applicable to the PC function (PC Assessment Report Proceeding);
- B. On May 31, 2021, BC Hydro submitted to the BCUC, in the PC Assessment Report Proceeding, a Mandatory Reliability Standards (MRS) Planning Coordinator Assessment Report (PC Assessment Report);
- C. On June 25, 2021, BC Hydro filed, in the PC Assessment Report Proceeding, its proposed implementation approach (Implementation Approach) providing information regarding its anticipated timing to register as a PC for its own Bulk Electric System assets only and to engage other entities registered in the British Columbia Mandatory Reliability Standard (MRS) Program (Entities) that are interconnected to the BC Hydro system on the potential for BC Hydro to provide PC service to those Entities;
- D. After considering submissions, the BCUC issued Order R-4-22 dated January 26, 2022, adjourning the PC Assessment Report Proceeding and recommending the initiation of this separate proceeding to review the PC Function Registration and PC Issues;
- E. FortisBC Inc. (FBC), BC Hydro, Movement of United Professionals (MOVEUP), Commercial Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia (CEC), Residential Consumer Intervener Association (RCIA) and Cape Scott Wind LP (CSWLP) have registered as interveners (collectively Interveners) in this proceeding to review the PC Function Registration and PC Issues;

- F. On July 15, 2022, the Administrator of the MRS Program, the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), filed with the BCUC a report of the results of the Transmission Planner mapping exercise (TP Report). The TP Report identifies gaps with Entities' having no functional relationships to a registered Transmission Planner, specifically with BC Hydro, which could result in failure to coordinate and exchange planning information as specified in the adopted Reliability Standards;
- G. By Order R-2-23 dated January 13, 2023, the BCUC established a Streamlined Review Process for issues pertaining to the Transmission Planner mapping (SRP);
- H. On January 26, 2023, the BCUC held the SRP with WECC, FBC, BC Hydro, RCIA and CSWLP in attendance. At the SRP, BC Hydro proposed a path forward for next steps in the proceeding (Path Forward). BC Hydro's Path Forward recommends the BCUC:
 - 1. Request WECC to conduct another Transmission Planner (TP) mapping so that BC Hydro can accept mapping requests from registered Generator Owners (GOs) and Distribution Providers (DPs);
 - 2. Amend Section 3.1 of the Registration Manual for British Columbia Mandatory Reliability Standards to include TPs for the assignment of compliance responsibility process; and
 - 3. Request WECC to work with appropriate parties to set out an implementation timeline and activities for Transmission Owner/Operators wishing to map to BC Hydro as its TP. In addition to BC Hydro and FBC, BC Hydro has identified Catalyst Paper Powell River Division (Catalyst) as a Transmission Owner (TO);
- I. At the SRP, BC Hydro also introduced the concept of adopting a Coordinated Functional Registration model in British Columbia as a way to facilitate assigning compliance responsibility to another Entity with regards to specific requirements applicable to the TP;
- J. By Order R-5-23 dated February 9, 2023, the BCUC established a further regulatory timetable for Intervener submissions in response to BC Hydro's Path Forward and final arguments for the TP phase of the proceeding;
- K. On February 23, 2023, Catalyst filed a letter of comment with the BCUC stating that it agrees to negotiations with BC Hydro on the condition that such negotiations include addressing the unique nature of the situation at Powell River with Powell River Energy Inc. (PREI), who jointly owns the transmission asset;
- L. After considering submissions, the BCUC issued Order R-11-23 dated April 4, 2023, directing WECC to initiate another TP mapping exercise and establishing a further regulatory timetable for BC Hydro proposals to accept or reject TP mapping requests;
- M. On June 30, 2023, WECC submitted the results of the latest TP mapping exercise which indicated that BC Hydro had accepted TP mapping requests from the Entities that submitted, with the exception of PREI;
- N. On July 4, 2023, BC Hydro filed its proposed implementation timelines to accept or reject the TP mapping request from Catalyst and/or PREI (Implementation Proposals). BC Hydro submits that Catalyst is in the process of selling the assets at its site. The Implementation Proposals include four options that Catalyst may choose to pursue contingent on the sale of its assets; and
- O. The BCUC determines that submissions and/or updates from BC Hydro and Catalyst regarding the Implementation Proposals and the establishment of further regulatory timetable are warranted.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to section 125.1(10) of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the BCUC orders a further regulatory timetable is established as set out in Appendix A to this order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 24th day of July 2023.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

A. K. Fung, KC
Commissioner

Attachment

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Mandatory Reliability Standards Planning Coordinator
Function Registration and Planning Coordinator Issues

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2023)
BC Hydro and Catalyst submissions and/or updates on the Implementation Proposals	Friday, September 29
Further Process	To be determined