



ORDER NUMBER
G-220-23

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

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
2021 Integrated Resource Plan

BEFORE:

D. M. Morton, Panel Chair
C. M. Brewer, Commissioner
T. A. Loski, Commissioner
R. I. Mason, Commissioner

on August 18, 2023

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 21, 2021, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) filed its 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), pursuant to section 44.1 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) and in accordance with Order G-28-21 dated January 27, 2021;
- B. By Order G-200-23 dated July 25, 2023, the BCUC established an amended regulatory timetable, which included submissions from parties on regulatory processes and timetables;
- C. On August 3, 2023, BC Hydro and interveners filed submissions. On August 10, 2023, BC Hydro and interveners filed reply submissions; and
- D. The BCUC has reviewed the submissions and determines amendments to the regulatory timetable are warranted.

NOW THEREFORE for the reasons outlined in Appendix B, the BCUC establishes an amended regulatory timetable as outlined in Appendix A of this order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 18th day of August 2023.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D. M. Morton
Commissioner

Attachments

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
2021 Integrated Resource Plan

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

The Load Forecast Regulatory Process

Action	Date (2023)
Late intervenor registration	Friday, August 18
Updates to intervenor evidence on load forecast scenarios	Friday, August 25
Information requests on updated intervenor evidence (on load forecast scenarios only)	Friday, September 1
Responses to information requests on updated intervenor evidence (on load forecast scenarios only)	Friday, September 8
BC Hydro rebuttal evidence (on intervenor evidence on load forecast scenarios only)	Friday, September 15
Oral hearing on BC Hydro's load forecast scenarios	Monday, September 25 and Tuesday, September 26 if required
Additional placeholder date for oral hearing on BC Hydro load forecast scenarios and/or intervenor evidence (on load forecast scenarios only)	Wednesday, October 11
Oral hearing on intervenor evidence (on load forecast scenarios only)	Thursday, October 12 and Friday, October 13 if required
Final written argument from BC Hydro on load forecast scenarios	Thursday, October 26
Final written argument from intervenors on load forecast scenarios	Thursday, November 23
Reply written argument from BC Hydro on load forecast scenarios	Thursday, December 7

BC Hydro's New Energy Acquisition Regulatory Process

Action	Date (2023)
BC Hydro workshop on Planned New Energy Acquisitions	Monday, October 16
Further workshop on Planned New Energy Acquisitions	Friday, December 1 if required
Further process on Planned New Energy Acquisitions	TBD

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
2021 Integrated Resource Plan

REASONS FOR DECISION

1.0 Introduction

On December 21, 2021, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) filed its 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), pursuant to section 44.1 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) and in accordance with Order G-28-21 dated January 27, 2021. On June 15, 2023, BC Hydro filed its 2021 Integrated Resource Plan Signposts Update (IRP Update).

By Order G-200-23 dated July 25, 2023, the BCUC established an amended regulatory timetable. The BCUC stated that for the immediate future, the scope of review of the BC Hydro 2021 IRP and IRP Update will be limited to:

- BC Hydro's load forecast scenarios; and
- BC Hydro's resulting near-term planned acquisition of approximately 3,700 GWh of clean and renewable energy (New Energy Acquisition).

Additionally, the BCUC sought submissions from parties on the amended regulatory processes and timetables.

By August 3, 2023, submissions were filed by the following:

- BC Hydro;
- Association of Major Power Consumers (AMPC);
- British Columbia Old Age Pensioners Association et al. (BCOAPO);
- BC Sustainable Energy Association and Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (BCSEA-VEVA);
- Capital Power Corporation (Capital Power);
- Clean Energy BC (CEBC);
- Commercial Energy Consumers of BC (CEC);
- First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC);
- FortisBC Energy Inc. and FortisBC Inc. (FortisBC);
- Movement of United Professionals (MoveUP);
- Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council (NTC);
- Residential Consumer Intervener Association (RCIA); and
- Zone II Ratepayers Group (Zone II RPG).

On August 10, 2023, BC Hydro and interveners filed reply submissions.

In the remainder of these reasons for decision, the Panel summarizes parties' submissions where there are issues arising from alternate perspectives regarding the regulatory process and timetable established by Order G-200-23. The Panel outlines its determinations on such issues in turn.

2.0 Process to Address Issues Besides Load Forecast and New Energy Acquisition (Other Issues)

In the cover letter accompanying Order G-200-23, the BCUC stated:

The Panel plans to complete the review of the above bulleted items [load forecast scenarios and New Energy Acquisitions] by first quarter of calendar 2024 and, at that time, will consider further process to complete the review of remaining aspects of the BC Hydro 2021 IRP and IRP Update.

BC Hydro submits the BCUC is well-positioned to conclusively determine the nature of generation sources, and matters related to the amount of energy and capacity, for the New Energy Acquisition at a workshop in October. This is provided the BCUC considers remaining aspects of the 2021 IRP and Updated 2021 IRP to be substantially resolved and able to be addressed in argument, because in BC Hydro's view, in order to make conclusive determinations about the amount of energy and capacity for the New Energy Acquisition, the BCUC must first have adequately considered the remaining aspects of the 2021 IRP. For example, if the BCUC were to conclusively determine matters related to the amount of energy and capacity for the New Energy Acquisition on the basis of the Updated 2021 IRP but then subsequently order further process on the remaining aspects and reject certain parts of the Updated 2021 IRP, this would end up impacting the amount of energy and capacity for the New Energy Acquisition, potentially negating the regulatory efficiency benefits of that prior determination.¹

In reply, FortisBC submits BC Hydro's submission that the Other IRP Issues be considered "substantially resolved" and addressed in argument without further evidentiary or other process is not appropriate given the BCUC's decision in Exhibit A-38, and should be declined. FortisBC submits that BC Hydro effectively seeks to have the BCUC determine that there is no need for an oral hearing for the Other IRP Issues without the parties engaging in a specific regulatory process to address that topic. Such a regulatory process of BC Hydro and intervenor submissions, with reply, was provided for in the Regulatory Timetable prior to Exhibit A-38 and Order G-200-23 and FortisBC expects was contemplated to be part of the BCUC's consideration of further process to complete the review of the Other IRP Issues in Q1 of 2024.²

In reply to BC Hydro, Capital Power observes that BC Hydro provides no substantive ground for considering any remaining aspect of the IRP beyond the two in-scope topics identified by the BCUC to be "substantially resolved" at this stage.

In reply to BC Hydro, NTC submits BC Hydro's statements would materially limit the scope of the review of the Updated 2021 IRP. While the NTC agrees that it is necessary to bring the proceeding to a close in a timely manner, it is not necessary or set aside the concerns the interveners and the BCUC may have about Other Issues.³

¹ Exhibit B-41, pp. 3 - 4.

² Exhibit C2-11, pp. 1 - 2.

³ Exhibit C4-14, p. 2.

BCSEA-VEVA are concerned that the BCUC's proposed regulatory changes may not achieve the desired effect. BCSEA-VEVA oppose exclusion of all of the Other Issues from the scope of the proceeding until at least Q1 2024, which means that the Other Issues would have been before the BCUC for 25 to 27 months before a regulatory timetable to complete the review is even established. In the meantime, BCSEA-VEVA submits external events will continue to erode the timeliness of the evidentiary record.⁴ BCSEA-VEVA proposes an alternative regulatory process which provides for final arguments on all issues by the end of 2023, which it says would bring the entire proceeding to a substantive conclusion by the first quarter of 2024 and avoid further updates to BC Hydro's evidence.⁵

Zone II RPG generally agrees with BCSEA-VEVA's proposed timetable. In the alternative, if the BCUC continues to limit the scope of the regulatory timetable per Exhibit A-38, Zone II RPG requests that the BCUC establish a process to set the scope and regulatory timetable for the review of issues not addressed in Exhibit A-38 in a timely manner.⁶

NTC agrees in principle with BCSEA-VEVA's suggestion about final arguments subject to reviewing BC Hydro's responses to intervenor and BCUC Signposts Update IRs, and the scope and conduct of the Workshop.⁷

RCIA opposes the exclusion of topics beyond Load Forecast Scenarios and New Energy Acquisition at this point in the proceeding, and generally agrees with BCSEA-VEVA's recommended adjustments to the regulatory process, which encompasses the suggestion of a final written argument.⁸

CEBC submits that it is unfortunate the BCUC has taken many critical matters off the table, at least for now. The process has been scoped in such a way as to effectively remove, or defer indefinitely, the fundamental inquiry into long-term resource options. CEBC submits the process has been so narrowed that it appears to encompass only the requirements of s. 44.1(2)(a) of the UCA and near-term elements of s. 44.1(2)(e).⁹

Panel Determination

The Panel confirms that the scope and regulatory process established by Order G-200-23 stands.

We disagree with BC Hydro's submission that the BCUC should determine Other Issues to be substantially resolved, and that later decisions on the Other Issues could undermine any determinations on the New Energy Acquisition. Rather, when a determination is made on the load forecast scenarios and the New Energy Acquisition, such determinations can be used as a basis for evaluating the Other Issues.

Accordingly, the Panel makes no further determinations with respect to the review of Other Issues at this time, and will consider further process upon the conclusion of the review of the load forecast scenarios and the New Energy Acquisition.

⁴ Exhibit C1-17, pp. 2-3 Exhibit C1-18, p. 3.

⁵ Exhibit C1-17, pp. 3-4.

⁶ Exhibit C6-19, p. 1.

⁷ Exhibit C4-14, p. 7.

⁸ Exhibit C7-31, p. 3.

⁹ Exhibit C5-22, p. 2.

3.0 Timing of Workshop

In the cover letter to Order G-200-23, the Panel stated the workshop scope will include the price at which new energy and capacity may be acquired.

BC Hydro submits that the BCUC will not be in a position to conclusively determine matters related to the price at which resources may be acquired for the New Energy Acquisition at a workshop in October. In part, this is because BC Hydro will be conducting engagement on this issue with First Nations, the Independent Power Producers industry and stakeholders during this time. While the specific price for new energy resources will be determined through a competitive process and the award of contracts, BC Hydro expects to be able to share more information regarding issues that may influence the price at which resources may be acquired following this engagement. Accordingly, BC Hydro submits that the BCUC would be better positioned to conclusively determine matters related to the price at which resources may be acquired for the New Energy Acquisition if the New Energy Acquisition workshop were to be held on or after November 27, 2023. This would accommodate the call process engagement timeline for the New Energy Acquisition and provide BC Hydro with the opportunity to share the feedback we've received to-date through engagement with First Nations, the Independent Power Producers industry and stakeholders so that the BCUC may consider determinations regarding a broader range of issues, pursuant to section 44.1(9) of the UCA.¹⁰

In reply, the CEC submits that it sees itself as a necessary participant in any pre-workshop engagements as the ultimate buyers of much of the energy procured under subsequent EPAs. The CEC agrees with BC Hydro's proposed to delay the Workshop until late November to include a fulsome stakeholder engagement process.¹¹

BCOAPO agrees that delaying the workshop is a prudent suggestion: maximizing the chances that the materials presented will be responsive to not only the concerns of Hydro's stakeholders, but also to many of the concerns that this Panel and BCUC may also share.¹²

Capital Power takes no issue with BC Hydro's suggestion that the October 16 workshop be moved to accommodate its stakeholder engagement schedule, which could enable a more productive and inclusive discussion.¹³

MoveUP would welcome a rescheduling of the oral hearing and of the proposed October 16 workshop, if this were to occur.¹⁴

NTC agrees with BC Hydro's suggestion to defer the Workshop until on or after November 27, 2023.¹⁵

Zone II is not opposed to BC Hydro's proposal.¹⁶

¹⁰ Exhibit B-41, p. 4.

¹¹ Exhibit C11-25, p. 3.

¹² Exhibit C9-15, p. 2.

¹³ Exhibit C10-17, p. 4.

¹⁴ Exhibit C18-10, p. 1.

¹⁵ Exhibit C4-14, p. 6.

¹⁶ Exhibit C6-20, p. 2.

Panel Determination

The Panel determines that the original scheduled date of October 16, 2023 for the Workshop stands.

BC Hydro indicates information will be available regarding the nature of generation sources, and matters related to the amount of energy and capacity, for the New Energy Acquisition at a workshop in October. Accordingly, the Panel believes there will be merit in proceeding with a workshop at an earlier date to begin the review of the information available to BC Hydro at that time. We acknowledge that there may be certain information (regarding the price at which resources may be acquired) that will not be available or sufficiently developed in October, and therefore the Panel will establish further process for BC Hydro to provide an evidentiary update in an additional workshop or in writing, to be determined as appropriate. A placeholder date of December 1, 2023 is established should an additional workshop be required.

4.0 Scoping of the Workshop and New Energy Acquisition Stream

As noted previously above, BC Hydro submits the BCUC is well-positioned to conclusively determine the nature of generation sources, and matters related to the amount of energy and capacity, for the New Energy Acquisition at a workshop in October.¹⁷

In reply to BC Hydro, while BCOAPO is cautiously optimistic that the issues of the quantum of the energy and capacity can be efficiently canvassed using a workshop, it does not seem at all likely that all parties to this process will be in a position to take a definitive position on this complex issue at the end of that day. This would have the effect of also making it unlikely that the BCUC would then go forward to issue an order regarding these two limited issues pursuant to section 44.1(9) of the UCA without further process.¹⁸

In reply to BC Hydro, Capital Power notes that the BCUC did not in its July 25 letter specifically propose to make “conclusive determinations” under section 44.1(9) of the UCA at the workshop itself, as BC Hydro appears to assume to be the Commission’s intention. The UCA’s approval scheme itself provides no indication that the Legislature intended “conclusive determinations” to be issued under section 44.1(9) ahead of an ultimate IRP decision in the manner BC Hydro contemplates.

In reply to BC Hydro, NTC submits that while it is possible that the New Energy Acquisition could be adequately addressed/conclusively determined, subject to final argument, it is also possible that as noted in the Regulatory Timetable that in 2023, further process on planned New Energy Acquisitions will be required. A single day workshop without pre-filed written evidence and an opportunity for IRs is not a traditional approach for a full review. It may need to be supplemented. This determination is the sole responsibility of the BCUC and must remain so.¹⁹

In reply to BC Hydro, CEBC submits Section 44.1 of the UCA is about long-term resource planning, but BC Hydro’s proposal is to change this IRP proceeding into approval of immediate/short-term measures and exclude all further discussion of long term planning and any meaningful public review. In view of the unexpected turns the current IRP review proceeding has taken, CEBC is not optimistic that it can, or even should, be continued as a meaningful evaluation of BC Hydro’s long-term resource planning. Rather, we have concluded that BC Hydro’s actions in this proceeding now require us to focus narrowly on the New Acquisition Process, including ensuring

¹⁷ Exhibit B-41.

¹⁸ Exhibit C9-15, p. 2.

¹⁹ Exhibit C4-14, p. 3.

that time is afforded to properly develop an avenue for First Nations participation, that is consistent with the Crown’s reconciliation obligations. CEBC urges the BCUC to dismiss BC Hydro’s argument that the majority of the matters addressed in the 2021 IRP have been “conclusively determined”, and suggests BC Hydro should be compelled to develop a revised filing that looks properly at long term resource needs.²⁰

Additionally, several interveners provided submissions regarding topics that should be considered in-scope for the New Energy Acquisitions Workshop, which are outlined in the table below along with BC Hydro’s response.

Intervener	Recommendation	BC Hydro’s Response ²¹
FNEMC ²²	Reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should also be included in the scope of the proposed New Energy Acquisition regulatory process	These matters will be addressed through First Nations engagement and engagement on the implementation of the Call for Power outside of the regulatory proceeding.
AMPC ²³	Expand the scope of the workshop to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigations to ratepayer impacts; • Identifying what information the BCUC requires to accept a long-term resource plan; • Structuring the workshop to ensure efficient participation; and • Developing an understanding of structuring future reviews in an expedient and meaningful manner. 	BC Hydro agrees that mitigations to ratepayer impacts should be in scope. This topic will be addressed via the Call for Power process in that it will be a competitive acquisition process that is structured to achieve cost-effectiveness. The other issues raised appear to be mostly process-related concerns that BC Hydro submits could either be addressed through argument or in the Commission’s process notice regarding the workshop.
	Discuss procurement related to the Call for Power, including a staged process and the need for procurement through further review of the load forecast and optimization of procurement practices in respect to technology.	BC Hydro agrees that this topic should be in scope.
BCSEA ²⁴	Set a deadline for BC Hydro to file a submission on the New Energy Acquisition, ahead of a BC Hydro workshop.	BC Hydro could file a short advance submission the week of November 20, 2023, in advance of a workshop on or after November 27, 2023, as this will allow for the engagement timeline with First Nations, the Independent Power Producer industry, and stakeholders to progress.

²⁰ Exhibit C5-23, p. 4.

²¹ Exhibit B-42, p. 3.

²² Exhibit C14-8, p. 2.

²³ Exhibit C8-27, p. 2.

²⁴ Exhibit C1-17, p. 3.

Intervener	Recommendation	BC Hydro's Response ²¹
Capital Power ²⁵	BC Hydro should identify and weigh all potential energy and capacity resource options available to ensure that its planned acquisitions address those needs reliably, efficiently, and at lowest cost.	BC Hydro has determined that the Call for Power will be for clean or renewable energy resources. BC Hydro agrees that whether resources that are not clean or renewable should be eligible for the Call for Power is an appropriate scope item for the workshop.

Zone II RPG supports FNEMC's submissions noted above.²⁶ Zone II RPG also suggests that the workshop could include discussion of other topics such as accelerating or extending timing of existing near-term actions as discussed in the 2021 IRP Update to facilitate the oral hearing proceeding.²⁷

Capital Power supports BCSEA-VEVA's suggestion.²⁸

NTC has raised the matters of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and reconciliation. The NTC strongly objects to these matters being adequately addressed/conclusively determined on the basis of the hearing record to date. In particular, how they will be addressed in the New Energy Acquisition process.²⁹

Other intervenor submissions requested clarifications regarding the general purpose and scope of the workshop.

CEBC observes that holding a workshop in the middle of an existing regulatory proceeding is unusual, and it is unclear to CEBC what its purpose is. CEBC questions if it is to elicit evidence from BC Hydro and interveners for use in the existing regulatory proceeding? If so, how will that work? If not, how is it intended to fit within the current proceeding?³⁰

BCSEA-VEVA are unclear about how the proposed workshop fits into the current proceeding. For example, why is it a BC Hydro workshop, rather than a BCUC proceeding? Will the workshop be transcribed, and will the transcription become evidence in the 2021 IRP proceeding? Will the Panel attend the BC Hydro workshop? Is there an expectation that BC Hydro will seek certain remedies relating to the New Energy Acquisitions program as part of the 2021 IRP filing? Does the Panel intend to consider making directions or orders regarding the New Energy Acquisitions program in the course of its decisions regarding the 2021 IRP?³¹

RCIA submits that the proposed approach in reviewing BC Hydro's New Energy Acquisition plans is reasonable but is requesting that intervening parties have an opportunity to make submissions on further processes after the conclusion of the proposed workshop on October 16, 2023. RCIA is requesting clarification as to which regulatory module issues (such as BC Hydro's Loss of Load Expectation and Capacity Reserve assumptions,

²⁵ Exhibit C10-16, p. 1.

²⁶ Exhibit C6-20, p. 1.

²⁷ Exhibit C6-19, p.1.

²⁸ Exhibit C10-17, p. 4.

²⁹ Exhibit C4-14, p. 5.

³⁰ Exhibit C5-22, p. 3.

³¹ Exhibit C1-17, p. 5.

calculations, and analysis processes) will be addressed – whether included in a further process within the New Energy Acquisition regulatory module, or through other means.³²

In reply, BCOAPO's position is that all parties' positions regarding the outcome of the Workshop should be considered speculative until the Workshop is concluded and all then have a chance to make submissions to this Panel on whether further process is required and if so, what that process might include.³³

Panel Determination

The Panel notes that by letter dated August 16, 2023 the BCUC granted parties the right to sur-reply on certain aspects of BC Hydro's reply submission related to topic areas that should be in scope for the workshop. At this time, the Panel will be making no determinations on the specific topic areas that will be in or out of scope for the workshop.

However, the Panel wishes to provide further clarity on the purpose of the workshop. The workshop is the first step in a new process within the existing IRP proceeding focusing on New Energy Acquisitions. The workshop will provide BC Hydro an opportunity to present its evidence related to New Energy Acquisitions in more detail than the current evidentiary record, and for participants and the Panel to ask clarifying questions on that evidence. The workshop is not an opportunity for cross-examination of BC Hydro witnesses. There is no intent for parties to make arguments or for the Panel to reach any determinations at the workshop itself; rather, further process will be required following the workshop. The Panel intends to seek input from parties before determining further process in the New Energy Acquisitions stream.

Further details regarding the workshop will be provided to parties closer to the time.

5.0 Scope of the Load Forecast Stream

The CEC understands that the load forecast referred to is necessarily a 'net forecast', which includes demand reductions from DSM and customer self-generation. The CEC trusts that these issues remain in-scope in a review of the load forecast.³⁴

NTC submits it is unclear to as to what the BCUC means by the phrase "BC Hydro's load forecast scenarios". Does this limitation mean that the review will be confined to merely examining the mechanics of the forecasting, without regard to whether the resulting forecasts will achieve any of the essential objectives? If so, NTC would strongly disagree. NTC is of the view that many "Other Issues" cannot be divorced from the evaluation of the load forecast scenarios because they provide the very contextual metrics that are essential for that evaluation. For instance, these "Other Issues" must properly include (without limitation):

- the extent to which any of the load forecast scenarios achieve the Government's objectives for GHG reductions;
- the extent to which any of the load forecast scenarios address the Government's obligations regarding UNDRIP and reconciliation;

³² Exhibit C7-30, p. 2.

³³ Exhibit C9-15, p. 2.

³⁴ Exhibit C11-25, p. 2.

- the extent to which any of the load forecast scenarios achieve energy efficiency goals; and
- the extent to which any of the load forecast scenarios properly depict the attraction of the new loads that will be required to achieve the most recently stated Government objectives.

NTC submits a strict demarcation will not lead to an efficient and fair review.³⁵

Panel Determination

The Panel confirms that the scope of the load forecast scenarios comprises net demand, i.e. forecasted customer demand net of DSM and self-generation.

With respect to NTC's submissions, the Panel notes that the purpose of producing load forecasts is not for the load forecast to achieve objectives, rather, it is to provide a forecast of customer demand under different scenarios which include different assumptions. We acknowledge that scenarios may differ in terms of assumptions including (but not limited to) the impact of Government decarbonization policies on customer demand, and to the extent that such assumptions may affect the reasonableness of the forecast then such issues are within scope.

6.0 Other Submissions Related to Regulatory Timetable

As outlined further in the subsections below, some interveners made submissions regarding specific aspects of the regulatory timetable outlined in Order G-200-23.

CEBC submits that assuming BC Hydro takes a half-day to present their direct evidence regarding load forecast scenarios at the oral hearing, that 1.5 days is not enough time for cross-examination. CEBC also questions whether two days of hearing time for intervenor evidence on load forecast scenarios is sufficient. Having regard to these concerns, CEBC suggests that instead of splitting the hearing into two, two-day sessions, the Commission should allocate a single tranche of six hearing days.³⁶ In reply, NTC submits that based on its counsel's many years of experience in BCUC proceedings, it would be best to extend the amount of time for oral hearings, as and when required. Two days each for BC Hydro and intervenor evidence is a good starting point.

CEBC also submits two weeks is not enough time for the preparation of updated evidence. CEBC suggests that the proposed schedule be modified to give interveners four weeks to prepare updated evidence on load forecast scenarios.³⁷

RCIA requests updates to existing information request responses in the relevant IR rounds for both BC Hydro and intervening parties be included as a part of the proposed regulatory timetable.³⁸ BC Hydro submits that this is not required as the Signposts Update describes what has changed and, to the extent required, interveners had, and some sought, the opportunity to request updates to previous information request responses through the most recent round of IRs.³⁹

³⁵ Exhibit C4-14, pp. 4 – 5.

³⁶ Exhibit C5-22, p. 2.

³⁷ Exhibit C5-22 p. 2.

³⁸ Exhibit C7-30, p. 1.

³⁹ Exhibit B-42, p. 4.

Panel Determination

The Panel determines the remainder of the regulatory timetable outlined in Order G-200-23 stands, with the exception of adding a further date for an oral hearing for load forecast scenarios, if required.

The Panel acknowledges CEBC's submission that additional time may be needed for the oral hearings regarding load forecast scenarios, and has scheduled an additional date of October 11, 2023 as a placeholder in the event more time is needed with respect to either BC Hydro's or interveners' evidence. However, the Panel declines CEBC's suggestion to modify the timetable for the filing of intervenor evidence. While we acknowledge the shorter than usual timeframes, adhering to the timetable will be necessary to meet the dates for the oral hearing and subsequent final arguments regarding load forecast scenarios.

Regarding RCIA's request, the Panel agrees with BC Hydro's position that an update to all existing IR responses is not necessary, and to the extent such updates were required that all parties have had an opportunity to ask IRs following the Signposts Update. Accordingly, the Panel declines to modify the timetable to include updates to IR responses.