

Suite 410, 900 Howe Street Vancouver, BC Canada V6Z 2N3 bcuc.com **P:** 604.660.4700 **TF:** 1.800.663.1385

## ORDER NUMBER G-33-25

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

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority 2024 Rate Design

## **BEFORE:**

M. Jaccard, Panel Chair T. A. Loski, Commissioner W. E. Royle, Commissioner

on February 19, 2025

## **ORDER**

## WHEREAS:

- A. On June 27, 2024, pursuant to sections 58 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), a 2024 Rate Design Application (Application), which includes a proposal for changes to its residential service rates, net metering service rate, non-integrated area rates, and Electric Tariff Terms and Conditions;
- B. By Order G-190-24 dated July 16, 2024, the BCUC established a regulatory timetable for the review of the Application (RDA Proceeding), which included, among other things, a deadline for BC Hydro to file an evidentiary update on its net metering service rate proposals (Evidentiary Update) by Friday, December 20, 2024;
- C. On December 6, 2024, BC Hydro requested an extension for filing its Evidentiary Update from December 20, 2024 to February 13, 2025, because additional time was required for its consultant to complete analysis that will inform BC Hydro's submission and for BC Hydro to prepare its submission;
- D. By Order G-331-24 dated December 11, 2024, the BCUC granted BC Hydro's extension request;
- E. By letter dated February 4, 2025, BC Hydro requested a further extension to March 20, 2025, to file its Evidentiary Update, so that its consultant can update its analysis to reflect BC Hydro's updated long-run marginal cost of electricity;
- F. In BC Hydro's letter dated February 4, 2025, it also requested that the BCUC initiate a separate regulatory process to review the net metering service rate proposals (Net Metering Proceeding) for regulatory efficiency and suggested that the BCUC place onto the evidentiary record of the Net Metering Proceeding, all evidence from the RDA Proceeding that is directly related to the net metering service rate proposals, and provided a list of documents it recommended be transferred;

- G. By letter dated February 7, 2025, the BCUC, among other things, granted BC Hydro's further extension request and proposed that the BCUC hold a separate proceeding to review the net metering service rate proposals, as it considered BC Hydro's request to be an appropriate way to review this distinct topic. The letter also invited interveners to provide, by February 12, 2025, their objections, if any, to the proposal with supporting reasons as well as provide a list of any additional documents from the RDA Proceeding that should be placed onto the evidentiary record of the Net Metering Proceeding;
- H. By letters dated between February 4 and 12, 2025, the interveners the Community Solar Coalition (CSC), BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA), Charge Solar et al., Residential Consumer Intervener Association (RCIA) and the Zone II Ratepayers Group (Zone II RPG) expressed support for the BCUC's proposal to hold a separate proceeding to review the net metering service rate proposals. CSC, Charge Solar et al. and Zone II RPG identified additional documents from the RDA Proceeding that they proposed should be placed onto the evidentiary record of the Net Metering Proceeding, while BCSEA and RCIA suggested that all documents from the RDA Proceeding should be transferred; and
- I. The BCUC has considered the proposal in its letter dated February 7, 2025, and the interveners' letters dated between February 4 and 12, 2025, and finds that a separate process to review the net metering service rate proposals is warranted. The BCUC also recommends that the entirety of the RDA Proceeding record form part of the Net Metering Proceeding record.

**NOW THEREFORE** the BCUC orders the net metering service rate proposals will not be reviewed as part of the review of the Application.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

BY ORDER

Electronically signed by Mark Jaccard

M. Jaccard Commissioner