



ORDER NUMBER
G-108-25

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

and

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Fiscal 2026 to 2027 Revenue Requirements

BEFORE:
M. Jaccard, Commissioner

on April 29, 2025

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 3, 2025, the Lieutenant Governor in Council approved OIC No. 94/2025, which amended the Direction to the British Columbia Utilities Commission Respecting the Customer Crisis Fund Program (CCF Direction) to increase the maximum amount for the program that British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) can defer to the Customer Crisis Fund Regulatory Account to \$13 million, plus interest that accrues after December 31, 2024 on the balance in the regulatory account;
- B. On March 17, 2025, the Lieutenant Governor in Council approved OIC 131/2025, which enacted Direction No. 9 to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) (Direction No. 9). Among other things, Direction No. 9 requires the BCUC to issue final orders approving various rate changes within ten days of an application for approval of rates by BC Hydro;
- C. On March 17, 2025, BC Hydro filed its Fiscal 2026 to Fiscal 2027 Revenue Requirements Application (Application) with the BCUC pursuant to the *Utilities Commission Act*, Direction No. 9 and the CCF Direction, requesting final orders;
- D. On March 26, 2025, by Order G-76-25, the BCUC issued final orders regarding the Application pursuant to, among other things, the *Utilities Commission Act*, Direction No. 9 and the CCF Direction;
- E. On March 26, 2025, subsequent to the issuance of Order G-76-25, the BCUC received of a letter of comment filed by the Association of Major Power Customers of BC (AMPC) relating to the Application (AMPC Letter). In the letter, AMPC requests certain BCUC directions to BC Hydro;
- F. By letter dated March 28, 2025, the BCUC invited BC Hydro to provide a response to the AMPC Letter;
- G. On April 10, 2025, BC Hydro filed its response to the AMPC Letter (BC Hydro Response); and

H. The BCUC has reviewed the AMPC Letter and the BC Hydro Response and makes the following determinations.

NOW THEREFORE for the reasons outlined in the decision accompanying this order, the BCUC orders as follows:

1. BC Hydro is directed to file the information outlined in the “BC Hydro Response” column in Table 1 of the BC Hydro Response as a compliance filing to the BCUC, and provide a copy to registered interveners from the BC Hydro Fiscal 2023 to 2025 Revenue Requirements proceeding, by May 8, 2025.
2. BC Hydro is directed to file its next revenue requirements application for rates effective April 1, 2027 by October 1, 2026.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 29th day of April 2025.

BY ORDER

Electronically signed by Mark Jaccard

M. Jaccard
Commissioner

DECISION

1.0 Introduction and Background

On March 17, 2025, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) filed its Fiscal 2026 to Fiscal 2027 Revenue Requirements Application (Application) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), which included a request for approval of rates, pursuant to the *Utilities Commission Act* and the following government directions:

- The Direction to the British Columbia Utilities Commission Respecting the Customer Crisis Fund Program (CCF Direction),¹ and
- Direction No. 9 to the BCUC (Direction No. 9).²

Among other things, Direction No. 9 requires the BCUC to issue final orders approving various rate changes within ten days of an application for approval of rates by BC Hydro.

On March 26, 2025, by Order G-76-25, the BCUC issued final orders regarding the Application pursuant to, among other things, the *Utilities Commission Act*, Direction No. 9, and the CCF Direction.

On March 26, 2025, subsequent to the issuance of Order G-76-25, the BCUC received of a letter of comment filed by the Association of Major Power Customers of BC (AMPC) relating to the Application (AMPC Letter) requesting certain BCUC directions to BC Hydro. By letter dated March 28, 2025, the BCUC invited BC Hydro to provide a response to the AMPC Letter and on April 10, 2025, BC Hydro filed its response (BC Hydro Response).

This decision addresses the requests made in the AMPC Letter and the BC Hydro Response.

2.0 AMPC's Request

In the AMPC Letter, AMPC provides comments on the Application. In particular, AMPC states that it “understands that stakeholders will not be granted an opportunity to participate in a formal regulatory process for this RRA [revenue requirements application] as a result of [Direction No. 9],” and “recognizes that the BC Government has the authority to direct rates in this manner.”

The AMPC Letter also includes a request that the BCUC direct BC Hydro to file certain information outlined on pages 3 to 4 of the AMPC Letter, in “an effort to understand BC Hydro’s forecast rate increases and the changes from expectation at a level of transparency suitable for stakeholders and BC Hydro ratepayers.” Further, AMPC requests that the BCUC considers directing a filing date for BC Hydro’s fiscal 2028 and fiscal 2029 RRA, in order to allow “ample time for review and preparation before F2028 rates are implemented.” AMPC states that “[o]ften, other jurisdictions will file rate applications at least 6 months prior to a rate increase date, and AMPC would be appreciative if BC Hydro follows suit so that its members have adequate time to budget for rate changes.” AMPC submits that ideally, the next RRA should include a long-term rate forecast to provide transparency, certainty and predictability to industrial customers.³

¹ As amended by Order in Council No. 94/2025 approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on March 3, 2025.

² As enacted by Order in Council No. 131/2025 approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on March 17, 2025.

³ AMPC Letter, p. 4.

In the BC Hydro Response, BC Hydro states that, although the submitting information after the issuance of final orders is unusual, if the BCUC is inclined to direct BC Hydro to provide the information requested by AMPC, then it proposes to provide the information outlined in Table 1 of the BC Hydro Response. BC Hydro explains that the information outlined in Table 1 is most of the information requested by AMPC with a few exceptions. BC Hydro proposes to provide the information outlined in Table 1 of the BC Hydro Response in a compliance filing to the BCUC, copied to registered interveners from the BC Hydro Fiscal 2023 to 2025 Revenue Requirements proceeding by May 8, 2025.⁴ BC Hydro proposes that there should be no further process following the filing of the information outlined in Table 1 of the BC Hydro Response considering that final orders regarding the Application have been issued.⁵

With respect to AMPC's request for the BCUC to consider directing a filing date for BC Hydro's next RRA and that the next RRA should include a long-term rates forecast, BC Hydro submits that the BCUC should refrain from providing such directives to retain flexibility around the specific timing and scope of an RRA. BC Hydro also notes that various events could arise that create challenges in accurately forecasting test period rates or providing a long-term rates forecast.⁶

3.0 Panel Determination

The Panel directs BC Hydro to file the information outlined in the "BC Hydro Response" column in Table 1 of the BC Hydro Response as a compliance filing, and provide a copy to registered interveners from the BC Hydro Fiscal 2023 to 2025 Revenue Requirements proceeding, by May 8, 2025. The Panel is satisfied that this information would enable AMPC and other stakeholders to better understand the forecast rate increases in the Application and provide transparency while minimizing regulatory costs. Since final orders have been issued regarding the Application, the Panel considers that further regulatory process, such as information requests or submissions, on the information outlined in Table 1 of the BC Hydro Response is not necessary.

The Panel directs BC Hydro to file its next RRA for rates effective April 1, 2027 by October 1, 2026. Although the Panel appreciates that various events can arise which may impact the timing and scope of the next RRA, the Panel considers that a filing deadline has the benefit of providing more predictability and transparency to interveners, stakeholders, and the BCUC. The Panel notes that the filing deadline of October 1, 2026 is consistent with BC Hydro's statement in the Application that it expects to file its next RRA during the second half of fiscal 2027.⁷ The Panel, however, does not make any directions regarding whether the next RRA should include a long-term rates forecast, and notes that AMPC has not requested such a direction. Given the challenges noted by BC Hydro regarding accurately forecasting rates over a longer term, the Panel considers it appropriate to allow BC Hydro the flexibility to decide whether to provide a long-term rates forecast in its next RRA based on the circumstances at that time.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 29th day of April 2025.

Electronically signed by Mark Jaccard

M. Jaccard
Panel Chair/Commissioner

⁴ BC Hydro Response, pp. 1–2.

⁵ BC Hydro Response, p. 3.

⁶ BC Hydro Response, p. 3.

⁷ Exhibit B-1, Application, p. 52.