



IN THE MATTER OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

AND

AMENDMENTS TO THE OPEN ACCESS TRANSMISSION TARIFF

Régie de l'énergie
DOSSIER: R-3669-2008 Phase 2
DÉPOSÉE EN AUDIENCE
Date: 18 octobre 2010
Pièces n°: C-2.50 UC

DECISION

September 10, 2009

BEFORE:

A.A. Rhodes, Panel Chair/Commissioner
L.A. O'Hara, Commissioner
P.E. Vivian, Commissioner

1.0 BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Transmission Corporation ("BCTC") is a crown corporation which was formed in 2003 to operate, manage, plan and maintain the transmission system in British Columbia which is owned, and was previously operated by BCTC's sister company, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("BC Hydro").

BCTC is also charged with responsibility to administer an Open Access Transmission Tariff ("OATT").

BCTC's OATT, like BC Hydro's Wholesale Transmission Services Tariff before it, is modelled on the pro forma tariff developed by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") and published in FERC Order 888 dated April 24, 1996.

FERC's pro forma OATT was designed to remedy a perceived problem in the U.S. of vertically-integrated utilities restricting the access to their transmission systems of other smaller generators with lower cost, resulting in underutilization of the transmission system and monopoly pricing of electricity. Order 888 required transmission providers to offer transmission service on a non-discriminatory basis by way of a standard form tariff.

In February of 2007, FERC issued Order 890. This Order was issued to strengthen the pro forma tariff in terms of addressing continuing opportunities for undue discrimination, providing greater specificity to facilitate FERC's oversight and increasing the transparency of the rules for planning and use of the transmission system. (Exhibit B1-1, p. 14)

BCTC complies voluntarily with FERC guidelines but is regulated by the British Columbia Utilities Commission.

It is important for BCTC's tariff to remain sufficiently comparable to FERC's pro forma tariff to allow BC Hydro and its sister company, Powerex Corp., to trade in the U.S. at market-based rates.