



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER G-121-10**

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250
VANCOUVER, BC V6Z 2N3 CANADA
web site: <http://www.bcuc.com>

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

**IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473**

and

**An Application by Rio Tinto Alcan
for Registration as Responsible Entities for certain functions required for compliance with
Mandatory Reliability Standards**

BEFORE: L.F. Kelsey, Commissioner July 29, 2010
D.A. Cote, Commissioner

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. Order G-123-09 approved the Registration Manual for entities subject to adopted Mandatory Reliability Standards and required that entities subject to the standards register with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) by December 31, 2009; and
- B. The Registration Manual requires that the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) in its role as the Mandatory Reliability Standards Administrator review and recommend registration for all applicable Entities and allow 21 days for Entities to comment to the Commission on the WECC's recommendations; and
- C. On April 28, 2010, the WECC recommended to the Commission that the Commission approve Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) registration for the functions of Generator Owner, Generator Operator, Transmission Owner, Transmission Operator, Distribution Provider and Load Serving Entity based on RTA's Generating Facilities which have a combined capacity of 1000 MVA and a 287 kV transmission system connected to the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) system and meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) definitions for Transmission Owner/Operator and Generation Owner/Operator; and Distribution Provider and Load Serving Entity; and
- D. Commission Order G-67-09 adopted the NERC Glossary of Terms in effect as of 12 February 2008 and the NERC functional Model version 3; and
- E. On June 7, 2010, RTA disputed WECC's recommendations for the Load Serving Entity function because RTA does not secure transmission service and cannot be considered a customer and it disputed WECC's recommendation for the Transmission Operator function as it is a radial facility and should be excluded by virtue of the definition for Bulk Power System in Regulation 32/2009 which states that the Bulk Power

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER** G-121-10

2

System excludes radial Transmission facilities regardless of voltage serving only end-users of electricity with one transmission source; and

- F. On June 25, 2010, WECC replied to RTA's arguments stating that RTA has the ability to import power from the BC Hydro system and has occasionally used this ability which would imply a transmission agreement was in existence at those times and that RTA as the entity for meeting its load is its own end-use customer and therefore continues to recommend that the Load Serving Entity function applies to RTA. WECC also argued that RTA operates its 287 kV system beyond the point of interconnection and that it has the ability to export up to 380 MW to the BC Hydro system. Accordingly, WECC argues it is not a radial system and the definition for exclusion does not apply and therefore RTA meets the definition and criteria for a Transmission Operator; and
- G. RTA has provided no further comments; and
- H. The Commission has considered the arguments and determines that RTA meets the criteria and definition for Load Serving Entity and Transmission Operator.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission approves the functional registration for Rio Tinto Alcan for the functions of Generator Operator, Generator Owner, Transmission Owner, Transmission Operator, Distribution Provider, and Load Serving Entity, as recommended by the WECC.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 29th day of July 2010.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D.A. Cote
Commissioner