

October 12, 2021

Via Email

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Re: Manitoba Hydro's Status Update Proceeding and Manitoba Hydro's Interim Rate Application

Manitoba Hydro's September 29, 2021 Letter

The Public Utilities Board ["PUB"] acknowledges receipt of Manitoba Hydro's [or "Utility"] September 29, 2019 letter ["letter"] copied to the recipients of this correspondence. In its letter and based on a ministerial directive, Manitoba Hydro requests the PUB discontinue the Status Update Process and replace it with an expedited public process to review an intended interim rate increase application to address the deleterious financial impacts due to the current drought condition.

While no specific filing date is provided and no specific rate increase amount is provided, it is indicated in the letter that the filing of Manitoba Hydro's 2021/22 interim rate application with the PUB is dependant on the Utility receiving the necessary approvals from its Manitoba Hydro Board of Directors. Further, it is indicated Manitoba Hydro may also seek a conditional interim rate increase for 2022/23 to safeguard the

financial health of the Utility including in the event that drought conditions persist into 2022.

Suspension of the Manitoba Hydro Status Update Proceeding

In its letter, Manitoba Hydro suggests the financial impacts of the current drought justify the need for immediate rate relief from the PUB. Recognizing Manitoba Hydro is seeking urgent approval from its Board of Directors to file as soon as possible a 2021/22 interim rate increase application with the PUB, the PUB will suspend the current Status Update Proceeding until November 3, 2021. In the event that Manitoba Hydro's interim rate application is not filed by this date, the PUB will resume the Status Update Proceeding and immediately thereafter schedule a Pre-Hearing Conference in that matter.

Minimum Filing Requirements ["MFRs"]

The PUB's longstanding use of MFRs is to assist in the efficient and focused filing of complete rate increase applications by Manitoba Hydro and reduce subsequent written information requests.

In its letter, and included as part of its forthcoming interim rate increase application, Manitoba Hydro indicates an intention to provide responses to the PUB's MFRs that were circulated September 9, 2021.

Recognizing the Intervener's MFRs that were submitted to Manitoba Hydro on September 16, 2021 were in relation to the then planned Status Update Proceeding, the PUB requires Interveners to immediately review and edit their proposed MFRs to identify which are specifically relevant to an expected interim rate increase application by Manitoba Hydro and are not duplicitous of the PUB MFRs. Recognizing the urgency related to an interim rate application, Interveners are to file their proposed revised MFRs with the PUB and Manitoba Hydro on October 13, 2021, by end of day.

Should Manitoba Hydro disagree with the relevance of any of the Intervener MFRs to an interim rate application, or should Manitoba Hydro be unable to respond to any of the Intervener's relevant MFRs in its interim rate application, Manitoba Hydro is to notify the PUB of its reasons by end of day on October 15, 2021. Thereafter the PUB will adjudicate which MFRs are to be included in the interim rate application. Prior to the deadlines set out above, Interveners and Manitoba Hydro are encouraged to discuss the MFRs to focus and reach a consensus on relevant and available information.

Intervener Applications

Parties seeking to intervene in the Status Update Proceeding were to have filed their applications with the PUB and Manitoba Hydro by September 16, 2021.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Consumers Coalition, Manitoba Industrial Power Users Group, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak all applied to intervene in the Status Update Proceeding.

While Manitoba Hydro has requested in its letter that the Status Update Proceeding be discontinued, it supports the engagement of the identified interveners as part of the proposed interim rate application process. Manitoba Hydro also reserves its comments on intervener budgets.

By this correspondence, the PUB is approving Intervener status in Manitoba Hydro's interim rate application for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Consumers Coalition, Manitoba Industrial Power Users Group, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak. The Interveners' budgets are to include matters related to the Status Update Proceeding.

Conclusion

Any questions of clarification are to be forwarded in writing to the Board's office for response.

Regards,



Rachel McMillin
A/Associate Secretary

RM/kl

cc: B. Peters (Board Counsel)
Shannon Gregorashuk / Darryl Martin (Manitoba Hydro)