

March 26, 2022

The Honourable Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Justice
The Honourable John Streicker, Minister Responsible for Yukon Energy Corporation
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Ministers:

Re: Follow-up from our Meeting on March 1, 2022

Thank you for making time to meet with members of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce Energy Committee on March 1, 2022 to discuss a number of electrical energy related matters. We are following up on our discussions during that meeting and to confirm our offer to work with you to explore opportunities to enhance the sustainability and predictability of electrical energy costs in the Yukon.

We table for your consideration:

1. The Yukon government (YG) can and should engage the Yukon Utilities Board (YUB) under Section 10 of the Public Utilities Act (PUA) to review and recommend rules (new or amended) that will:
 - Make it easier and encourage more public participation in YUB proceedings (e.g., the Yukon Chamber of Commerce and other business or customer groups);
 - Reduce the cost of YUB proceedings to all parties;
 - Reduce the time requirements for all parties in YUB proceedings; and
 - Consider alternatives to the present public hearing process for YUB proceedings, including negotiated settlements.
2. YG should consider directing the YUB, referencing Sections 17-19 of the PUA to investigate matters that it considers to be in the public interest – e.g., ATCO Electric Yukon overearnings. Alternatively issue and OIC that empowers that Board (with ministerial approval?) to investigate matters that it identifies to be in the public interest (this approach would make such matters appear less political).
3. Have the YUB determine how to consider public policy issues that are in the long-term public interest – e.g., how the YUB takes into account / values environmental impacts such as GHG emissions, climate change, etc.
4. YG should consider revising the PUA to incorporate important new issues not contemplated at the time the present Act was drafted, e.g., the resale of electricity for EV charging stations should be allowed.

5. Consider setting fixed dates for general rate applications - suggest every 3 years at the same time of year to make scheduling & participating easier and less expensive to accomplish.
6. Direct the YUB to conduct a cost of service and rate design review in the context of the Our Clean Future strategy and the soon to be developed Clean Energy Act. The last detailed cost of service review was conducted over 21 years ago and should be updated.
7. Amend the billing structure including simplifying customer bills.
8. Implement smart metering, starting with a small pilot, that will support more effective demand side management and fairness in billing.
9. Incorporate carbon emissions as of part of the regulated utility cost structure – taking a triple bottom line approach.
10. With the recent global events that have had a significant impact on oil and gas supply and related price increases crunch, conduct a longer-term analysis (10 years) of the impact of these increases when compared to alternative energy production in the renewable sectors. E.g., hydro, wind, solar and biomass.

Thank you again for making the time to meet with the Energy Committee and we look forward to working with you to build a better Yukon.

Sincerely,



Myles Thorp
Chair, YCC Energy Committee Chair



Denny Kobayashi
Executive Director

Copy: YCC Executive Committee, YCC Energy Committee