2 PROPONENT DESCRIPTION

BC Hydro is a Crown corporation owned by the Province of British Columbia.

BC Hydro's mandate is to generate, manufacture, conserve, purchase, and sell electricity to meet the needs of its customers. BC Hydro serves 95% of B.C.'s population, delivering electricity safely and reliably to approximately 1.9 million customers. Ninety per cent of BC Hydro customer accounts are residential, with the remainder either commercial or industrial.

As the largest electric utility in British Columbia, BC Hydro operates an integrated system with 31 hydroelectric facilities and three thermal generating plants, totalling approximately 12,000 MW of installed generating capacity (Figure 2.1). The hydroelectric facilities provide over 95% of the total electricity generated and are located in the Peace, Columbia, and Coastal regions of B.C. BC Hydro's own generation is complemented by additional electricity purchased from Independent Power Producers in the province to meet customers' annual needs.

BC Hydro delivers electricity to its customers through a network of over 75,000 km of transmission and distribution lines, approximately 300 substations, 900,000 utility poles, and 325,000 individual transformers. The system connects with other transmission systems in British Columbia, Alberta, and Washington State, which improves the overall reliability of the system and provides opportunities for trade.

BC Hydro is responsible for planning, building, operating, and maintaining its inventory of generation facilities and transmission and distribution assets. This responsibility includes obtaining all appropriate regulatory approvals for enhancements, reinforcements, and sustaining growth investments of these publicly owned assets.

The legislation that enables BC Hydro to carry out its mandate is the *Hydro and Power Authority Act*. Under the *Utilities Commission Act*, the British Columbia Utilities Commission regulates public utilities, including BC Hydro.

In addition, the *BC Hydro Public Power Legacy and Heritage Contract Act* ensures public ownership of BC Hydro's transmission and distribution systems, all of BC Hydro's existing generation and storage assets, and any future increases to the capacity and energy capability of these facilities. The *Clean Energy Act*, S.B.C., 2010, c. 22, updated several elements and targets included in the 2007 *BC Energy Plan*, and provides statutory guidance for how BC Hydro is to meet the Province's energy objectives.

2.1 Contact Information

Name of Corporation	BC Hydro and Power Authority
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