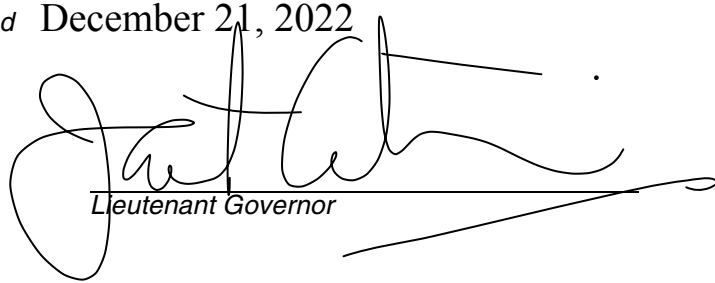


PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ORDER OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

Order in Council No. 692

, Approved and Ordered December 21, 2022



Lieutenant Governor

Executive Council Chambers, Victoria

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, orders that attached Direction to the British Columbia Utilities Commission Respecting Cryptocurrency Mining Projects is made.



Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation



Presiding Member of the Executive Council

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: *Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 473, s. 3*

Other:

R10647716

DIRECTION TO THE BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION RESPECTING CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING PROJECTS

Contents

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Application
- 3 Suspension of obligation to serve
- 4 Load interconnection practice

Definitions

1 In this direction:

“**Act**” means the *Utilities Commission Act*;

“**design deposit**”, in relation to a project, means a payment to the authority to cover all or a portion of the estimated costs of designing upgrades to the authority’s electric distribution system that would be necessary to connect the project to the authority’s electric distribution system;

“**facilities study agreement**”, in relation to a project, means an agreement between the authority and the project proponent that

- (a) is in the form of agreement commonly referred to by the authority as a “facilities study agreement”, and
- (b) provides for an evaluation by the authority of the work that would be necessary to connect the project to the authority’s transmission system, including engagement with First Nations, engineering, procurement and construction;

“**new high-voltage cryptocurrency project**” means a project to mine cryptocurrency

- (a) that would receive from the authority an electricity supply of 60 kV or higher, and
- (b) in relation to which the authority has not entered into a facilities study agreement before the date this direction comes into force;

“**new low-voltage cryptocurrency project**” means a project to mine cryptocurrency

- (a) for which
 - (i) the project proponent requests at least 2.5 megawatts of power, and power would be supplied through a 12.5 kV connection to the authority’s electric distribution system, or
 - (ii) the project proponent requests at least 5 megawatts of power, and power would be supplied through a 25 kV connection to the authority’s electric distribution system, and
- (b) in relation to which a design deposit has not been received by the authority before the date this direction comes into force;

“paused project” means a new high-voltage cryptocurrency project that is the subject of one of the following agreements:

- (a) the system impact study agreement dated December 1, 2021;
- (b) the system impact study agreement dated January 28, 2022;
- (c) the system impact study agreement dated June 15, 2022;
- (d) the system impact study agreement dated June 20, 2022;

“suspension period” means the period beginning on the date the commission issues final orders under section 3 and ending 18 months after that date;

“system impact study agreement”, in relation to a project, means an agreement between the authority and the project proponent that

- (a) is in the form of agreement commonly referred to by the authority as a “system impact study agreement”, and
- (b) provides for an evaluation by the authority of
 - (i) the effects on the authority’s transmission system of connecting the project to the authority’s transmission system, and
 - (ii) the modifications to the authority’s transmission system that would be necessary to connect the project to the authority’s transmission system, including modifications to maintain the reliability of the authority’s transmission system.

Application

- 2 This direction is issued to the commission under section 3 of the Act.

Suspension of obligation to serve

- 3 (1) Within 10 days of the date of an application by the authority for the purposes of this section, the commission must issue final orders so that, during the suspension period, the authority is relieved of the following obligations:
 - (a) the obligation to supply service respecting a new low-voltage cryptocurrency project, including, without limitation, the obligation to accept a design deposit in relation to a new low-voltage cryptocurrency project;
 - (b) the obligation to supply service respecting a new high-voltage cryptocurrency project, including, without limitation,
 - (i) the obligation to enter into a system impact study agreement in relation to a new high-voltage cryptocurrency project, and
 - (ii) the obligation to enter into a facilities study agreement in relation to a paused project.
- (2) Except on application by the authority, the commission must not
 - (a) add terms to the orders referred to in subsection (1), or
 - (b) amend, cancel or suspend those orders.

Load interconnection practice

- 4** During the suspension period, the commission must not exercise its powers under sections 58 to 61 of the Act to require the authority to amend, cancel or suspend a rule or practice by which the authority processes requests for electricity service made in relation to the paused projects.