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yukonenergy.ca

August 31, 2023

Yukon Utilities Board Box 31728 Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6L3

Attention: Mr. Richard Buchan Chair

## Re: Yukon Energy Corporation 2023-24 General Rate Application

Please find enclosed for filing with the Yukon Utilities Board (YUB or Board) Yukon Energy Corporation's (YEC or Yukon Energy) General Rate Application for the 2023-2024 Test Years (GRA or Application).

The GRA deals primarily with Yukon Energy revenues required in 2023 and 2024 to carry out its responsibilities. It does not address in any material way cost of service and general rate design matters that would require joint work with ATCO Electric Yukon (AEY).

YEC's Application identifies the necessity to increase YEC's electricity rates in 2023 and 2024 in order to meet Yukoners' need for an increasing supply of safe, reliable and sustainable electricity. Significant and timely investments in all aspects of the Yukon's electricity system – generation, transmission, distribution, storage and grid stability, and end-use – are needed to address growth in winter peak electricity loads, aging utility infrastructure, energy transition changes, as well as rising costs and capital project complexity.

Pursuant to the Order in Council (OIC) 1995/90 direction (as amended by OIC 2018/220), the Board must ensure that rate adjustments for retail customers and major industrial customers apply equally, when measured as percentages, to all classes of retail customers and to the class of major industrial customers. Consequently, all proposed 2023 and 2024 rate adjustments for retail customers and industrial customers apply equally, as percentages.

## Proposed Timing for Interim and Final Rates & Bill Impact Mitigation

In filing this Application, YEC is aware that no one likes rate increases and that even the smallest rate increase can have an impact on some Yukoners. Average monthly bills in Yukon remain the lowest across the North, and YEC is committed to doing what it can to keep it that way.

That's why as part of this Application, YEC is seeking the YUB's support to approve the timing for implementation of YEC's interim rate increases and YEC's final rate adjustment to occur when other charges on electricity bills are expected to be reduced and/or expire. Through this approach, the impact of YEC's 2023 and 2024 rate increases on customer bills will be reduced and there

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would be no impact on residential bills throughout the winter, and greater bill stability and predictability will be provided to Yukoners.

In order to reduce bill volatility and impact of YEC's interim rate increase, YEC is seeking YUB approval of an interim Rider J increase of 4.80 percentage points effective October 1, 2023, i.e., on the same day that ATCO Electric Yukon's (AEY) interim rate reduction is proposed. Please see details of proposed interim rates in the Application.

## Process & Proposed Schedule

In accordance with the *Public Utilities Act*, RSY 2002, c. 186, and the *Rate Policy Directive (1995)*, OIC 1995/90, as amended, YEC requests that the Board commence the public notification process in anticipation of a public hearing in early 2024 as per proposed schedule below.

Yukon Energy proposes that the Board establish a process at the earliest opportunity to allow for interested parties to be registered, and for a schedule to be developed for full public review of this Application. We attach for the Board's consideration a proposed schedule. Yukon Energy will arrange for publication of a Notice of the Board's process and date for public hearing in the local press once these plans are finalized.

As has been done in the past, the schedule contemplates a workshop early in the process at which Yukon Energy will provide an overview of the overall Application for interested parties and Board staff. This potential workshop can be structured to accommodate the interests of the Board.

In an effort to promote regulatory efficiency, YEC proposes to limit the number of intervener Information Requests (IRs) to a maximum of 50, including sub-parts.<sup>1</sup> It is noted that AEY's request for limiting the IRs was denied in Board Order 2023-13 given the length of time since AEY's last General Rate Application (2015-2017). This is not applicable to YEC as YEC's last General Rate Application was for 2021.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Jason Epp 🧹 🕻 Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In an effort to reduce regulatory burden measures such as this have been adopted by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). Please refer to, e.g., Proceeding ID 27062, Exhibit 27062-X0273.



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## YUKON ENERGY 2023/24 GENERAL RATE APPLICATION PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Application filed with YUB	August 31, 2023
Pre-hearing Conference and Workshop	
Publish Notice (2 weeks)	September 14, 2023
Intervenors Register with Board (2 weeks)	September 14, 2023
Workshop (format to be determined)	September 27, 2023
(Yukon Energy to provide summary of its proposals and Application)	
Proposed Schedule for Review of Application	
IRs to Yukon Energy (3 weeks)	October 19, 2023
Yukon Energy responses (4 weeks)	November 16, 2023
Intervenor Evidence filed (3 weeks)	December 7, 2023
IRs to Intervenors on their Evidence (2 weeks)	December 21, 2023
Intervenor responses (2.5 weeks)	January 9, 2024
YEC Rebuttal Evidence (if necessary) (1 week)	January 16, 2024
Hearing (format to be determined)	January 29-31, 2024
Final Argument (2 weeks)	February 14, 2024
Reply Argument (2 weeks)	February 28, 2024

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