PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PURSUANT TO SECTION 64 OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER

1944

PRINTED BY
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1945.

VICTORIA, B.C., February 28th, 1945.

To His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in Council
of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

SIR,—We have the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with section 64 of the "Public Utilities Act," the Sixth Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission under that Act for the year ended December 31st, 1944.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,

W. A. CARROTHERS,
Chairman.

L. W. PATMORE,
Commissioner.

J. C. MACDONALD,
Commissioner.

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Sixth Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission

under the "Public Utilities Act"

for the Calendar Year ended December 31st, 1944.

This report of the Public Utilities Commission is made in accordance with section 64 of the "Public Utilities Act" and does not cover the work of the Commission under the "Motor Carrier Act," a separate report of which is being made pursuant to section 36 of that Act.

Detailed information relative to those utilities which come within the ambit of the Act was reported in the Annual Report for 1943. There being no major changes in 1944, it was felt there was not sufficient reason to warrant listing these details again.

Particulars of regulations promulgated during the year are set out in Schedule B.

Applications and complaints to the Commission, together with summaries of findings of the Commission thereon, are set out in Schedule C.

A summary of the findings of the Commission in regard to matters respecting which the Commission has acted on its own motion or upon request of the Attorney-General are set forth in Schedule D. This schedule includes progress reports on the appraisals of the West Canadian Hydro Electric Corporation, Limited; Cumberland Electric Lighting Company, Limited; West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited; Okanagan Orchard and Development Company, Limited; and the Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company, Limited.

A statement of revenue and expenditure for the year 1944 is set out in Schedule E.

SCHEDULES.

SCHEDULE B.

Regulations under "Public Utilities Act" made during 1944.

Regulation No.	Date approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.	Subject-matter.	Date of Publication in Gazette.
....	February 1, 1944	Regulations respecting passenger transportation and bus construction	February 10, 1944.
15	Approval not required	Regulations requiring public utilities to keep open to public all their rate schedules at their head office	April 20, 1944.

SCHEDULE C.

Part I.—Applications for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity received or decided in 1944.

Applicant.	Date of Application.	Particulars.	Summary of Findings of Commission.
British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd.	Mar. 31, 1944	For temporary discontinuance of street-car service from Mount Tolmie to Victoria City and substitution therefor of a bus service	Granted; May 18, 1944.
Zeballos Utilities, Ltd.	May 26, 1944	For construction and operation of an electric plant and system at Zeballos; generation not to exceed 25 horse-power	Granted; July 6, 1944.
Messrs. C. G. Ballentine and G. D. Frith	Sept. 28, 1944	For construction and operation of a ferry service between Gibsons Landing and Horseshoe Bay	Not decided in 1944.
Burns Lake Electric	Nov. 17, 1944	For construction and operation of an electric plant at Burns Lake	Not decided in 1944.
S. Gordon	Dec. 15, 1944	For construction and operation of a waterworks system in Lake Cowichan Village	Not decided in 1944.

Part II.—Rate Schedules.

(i.) Original Filings—All Classes of Service.

Applicant.	Nature of Schedule filed.	Area affected.	Date of filing.
Wood Lake Water Company	Water	Oyama	Mar. 27, 1944.
Kootenay Telephone Company, Ltd.	Telephone	O'Sullivan	April 3, 1944.
	Telephone	Coal Creek, Hopkins Landing, and Lamberton	June 29, 1944.

SCHEDULE C—*Continued.*

PART II.—RATE SCHEDULES—*Continued.*

(ii.) AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO RATE AND TIME SCHEDULES.

(*a.*) *Railways, Street-railways, and Tramways.*

Applicant.	Nature of Schedule filed.	Area affected.	Date of filing.
British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd.	Time schedule for Vancouver–New Westminster interurban lines	Vancouver, New Westminster and way points	April 6, 1944.
	Interurban time schedule	Vancouver and New Westminster	April 17, 1944.
	Week-day and Sunday street-car and bus time schedules	Victoria and vicinity	May 2, 1944.
	Time schedules for street-cars and buses	Burnside and Mount Tolmie (Victoria)	June 30, 1944.
	Time schedules for street-car and bus lines	Vancouver City	Aug. 4, 1944.
	Time schedules for street-car and bus lines	Vancouver City	Sept. 27, 1944.
	Time schedules for street-car and bus lines	Vancouver City	Nov. 23, 1944.

(*b.*) *Telephone and Telegraph Systems.*

Chilliwack Telephones, Ltd.	Revision of wording *re* service charge connections	Chilliwack	April 27, 1944.
Kootenay Telephone Company, Ltd.	Revision of time schedule for reduced long-distance rates	All areas served by the Company	Feb. 11, 1944.
	Reduction of rates and minimum charges for certain lines	All areas served by the Company	April 27, 1944.
	Revision of wording *re* service charge connections	All areas served by the Company	April 27, 1944.
	Revision of emergency service regulations	All areas served by the Company	July 14, 1944.
	Revision of exchange rates	Kimberley	Nov. 7, 1944.
Mission Telephone Company, Ltd.	Revision of wording *re* service charge connections	All areas served by the Company	April 27, 1944.
North-west Telephone Company	Reduction of rates and minimum charges for certain lines	All areas served by the Company	April 27, 1944.
	Revision of wording *re* service charge connections	All areas served by the Company	April 27, 1944.
	Additional fixed stations and vessels added to schedule	Alice Lake, Bowden Bay, Gibson's Camp No. 1, Palisade Lake, Loch Lomond, Woodside Bay, Tasis Canal, Wales Island, and vessels on coastal service	June 8, 1944.
	Addition to schedule of fixed stations and vessels	Henslung Bay, Kyuquot, Belt Logging	Oct. 6, 1944.
	Revision of emergency service regulations	All areas served by the Company	July 14, 1944.
Okanagan Telephone Company	Revision of time schedule for reduced long-distance rates	All areas served by the Company	Mar. 7, 1944.

SCHEDULE C—*Continued.*

PART II.—RATE SCHEDULES—*Continued.*

(ii.) AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO RATE AND TIME SCHEDULES—*Continued.*

(*c.*) *Electric Power Systems.*

Applicant.	Nature of Schedule filed.	Area affected.	Date of filing.
British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd.	Restriction of availability for certain users	Lower Mainland, except Kamloops and Bridge River	May 11, 1944.
	Restriction of availability for certain users	Vancouver Island South	July 5, 1944.
	Reduction in minimum charges for domestic and commercial lighting during power shortage	Lower Mainland, except Kamloops and Bridge River; Vancouver Island South	Aug. 14 and 17, 1944.
	Revision of conditions of service *re* apartment block transformers	Victoria and vicinity	Sept. 6, 1944.
	Repeal of restrictions of availability for certain users	Vancouver Island South	Sept. 21, 1944.
	Termination of restrictions of availability	Lower Mainland, except Kamloops and Bridge River	Nov. 2, 1944.
Columbia Power Company, Ltd.	Revision of conditions of service	Nakusp, Golden, Smithers, and Sechelt	Mar. 28, 1944.
	Revision of conditions of service	Nakusp, Golden, Smithers, and Sechelt	June 16, 1944.
Columbia-Vanderhoof Power Company, Ltd.	Revision of street-lighting charge	Vanderhoof	Jan. 22, 1944.
	Special rates for churches	Vanderhoof	Mar. 3, 1944.
	Revision of school rates	Vanderhoof	Aug. 14, 1944.
	Amendment to hospital rates	Vanderhoof	Aug. 29, 1944.
Dominion Electric Power, Ltd.	Revision of domestic and commercial rates	Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe	April 19, 1944.
Nanaimo-Duncan Utilities, Ltd.	Restriction of availability for certain users	Nanaimo, Duncan, Saltspring Island, and vicinity	July 13, 1944.
Princeton Light and Power Company, Ltd.	Increase of security deposits	Princeton	May 11, 1944.
West Kootenay Power & Light Company, Ltd.	Revision of minimum charges	Kinnaird	Feb. 19, 1944.
Corporation of the City of Kelowna	Revision of water-heater and range rates	Area served outside municipal boundaries	Jan. 27, 1944.

(*d.*) *Waterworks Systems.*

Corporation of the City of Alberni	Revision of rates	Alberni and territory adjacent thereto	Aug. 28, 1944.
Corporation of the City of Courtenay	Revision of rates	Courtenay, Comox, and Royston	Sept. 11, 1944.
Cumberland and Union Waterworks Company, Ltd.	Revision of conditions of service	Comox-Nelson	Sept. 19, 1944.
General Utility Company, Ltd.	Rate schedule for thawing service	Princeton	Feb. 10, 1944.
	Revision of sprinkling rates and security deposits	Princeton	April 26, 1944.
	Revision of conditions of service	Princeton	Aug. 14, 1944.
Ladysmith Water Company	Revised rates for Comox Logging Company	Ladysmith and vicinity	June 20, 1944.
Kinnaird Water Company	Revision of sprinkling regulations	Castlegar	May 22, 1944.
Sidney Water and Power Company, Ltd.	Revision of sprinkling and irrigation rates	Sidney	May 16, 1944.

(*e.*) *Gas Systems.*

British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd.	Revision of commercial and industrial rate schedules for certain users	Vancouver	Feb. 1, 1944.
	Reduction of annual minimum charge for industrial users	Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, and Saanich	May 18, 1944.

SCHEDULE C—*Continued.*

PART III.—APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMISSION TO FIX RATES.*

Public Utility.	Applicant.	Particulars of Application.	Date of filing.	Findings of Commission.
Cumberland Electric Lighting Company, Ltd.	City of Cumberland	Request for general reduction in rates	April 18, 1944	Appraisal concluded but hearing not held.
West Canadian Hydro Electric Corporation, Ltd.	B.C. Fruit-growers' Association	Request for general reduction in rates	March 6, 1944	Appraisal being made.
	J. K. Wolsey	Request for reduction in power rates	June 24, 1944	Appraisal being made.
West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Ltd.	H. N. Willing *et al.*	Request for an investigation into the rates charged in Fruitvale	July 28, 1944	Appraisal ordered May 10, 1944.
	Stephen Rysen *et al.*	Request for an investigation into the rates charged in Castlegar	July 28, 1944	Appraisal ordered May 10, 1944.
	C. A. Anderson *et al.*	Request for an investigation into the rates charged in Robson	July 28, 1944	Appraisal ordered May 10, 1944.
	W. M. Parker *et al.*	Request for an investigation into the rates charged in Kinnaird and vicinity	July 28, 1944	Appraisal ordered May 10, 1944.
	Associated Boards of Trade (B.C. Southern Interior)	Request for general rate revision	Jan. 26, 1944	Appraisal ordered May 10, 1944.

* *See* Schedule D.

PART IV.—APPLICATION BY PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR APPROVAL OF SECURITY ISSUES AND MORTGAGES, RECEIVED OR DECIDED IN 1944.

Applicant.	Nature and Amount of Issue.	Purpose.	Date of Application.	Disposition.
Dominion Electric Power Company, Ltd.	$1,100,000 4½% first mortgage bonds	Retiring Company's debentures, sinking fund bonds and adding to general capital	Jan. 10, 1944	Granted; Jan. 29, 1944.
Zeballos Developments, Ltd.	Sale of assets	Transfer of business to S. Wilson and Zeballos Utilities, Ltd.	April 28, 1943	Granted; May 31, 1944.

SCHEDULE C—*Continued.*

PART VI.—APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMISSION TO REQUIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES TO EXTEND THEIR SYSTEMS.

Public Utility.	Applicant.	Class of Service.	District.	Particulars of Application.	Date of filing.	Summary of Findings of Commission.
British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd.	Mrs. I. M. Brown *et al.*	Electric	Surrey	Extension of service on North Bluff Road	Nov. 29, 1943	Granted; Jan. 11, 1944.
	Shirley Community Association	Electric	Shirley, Sooke and vicinity	Extension of service to Kemp Lake Road, West Coast Road, and Old Jordan River Road	April 11, 1944	Revenue requirements of Company not unreasonable or discriminatory.
	F. L. Tucker *et al.*	Electric	Surrey	Extension of service on Hall's Prairie Road	March 8, 1944	Granted; April 5, 1944.
	Mrs. E. Manzer *et al.*	Electric	New Westminster	Extension of service on King George VI. Highway	Jan. 3, 1944	Granted; Jan. 31, 1944.
	R. W. Adams	Electric	New Westminster	Extension of service on King George VI. Highway	July 10, 1944	Revenue requirements of Company not unreasonable or discriminatory.
Columbia Power Company, Ltd.	Elphinstone Bay School Board	Electric	Roberts Creek	Extension of service to public school	Sept. 24, 1943	Granted; April 19, 1944.
West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Ltd.	J. Hanbury *et al.*	Electric	North-west part of Osoyoos Lake	Extension of service	May 24, 1944	Arrangements for extension being made.

SCHEDULE C—*Continued.*

PART VII.—MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS.

(i.) *Applications for Permission to extend Public Utility Systems.*

Where the extensions are of a substantial nature, certificates of public convenience and necessity are required. Particulars of applications for certificates are set out elsewhere in this report. Each public utility is required to report the particulars of smaller extensions other than routine service connections, but where the Commission is satisfied that such extensions come within the terms of section 12A of the " Public Utilities Act " it relieves the utility from the necessity of obtaining a certificate.

Summary of Extensions dealt with under Section 12A of the " Public Utilities Act."

Class of Service.	Public Utility.	Number of Extensions.
Electric	British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd.	156
Electric	Courtenay, Corporation of the City of	5
Electric	Nanaimo-Duncan Utilities, Ltd.	3

SCHEDULE D.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF COMMISSION WHERE COMMISSION HAS ACTED ON ITS OWN MOTION OR UPON REQUEST OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

While the Commission has instituted inquiries of its own motion in order to obtain information regarding certain public utilities, these inquiries have, in general, been of an informal nature. Local sittings have been held at different places as a result of applications and complaints, and noted elsewhere in this report in the appropriate schedules. Where the inquiries have shown that improvement should be made, the utilities concerned have, in general, undertaken them without being required to do so by formal order of the Commission.

British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd.

Pursuant to the policy adopted by the Commission, the operations of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd., and its associated and subsidiary companies were reviewed and it was found that on the basis of the 1943 revenues a reduction in charges to consumers was indicated. The Commission therefore ordered a free billing period of two months to certain consumers of electricity in the following areas served by the utility: Vancouver Island South, Alberni, Port Alberni and adjacent areas, the City of Kamloops and adjacent areas. A free billing period of one month was granted to certain consumers of electricity in the Lower Mainland area, Newcastle-Nanoose, and the Village of Royston and vicinity.

Subsequent discussions between the Commission and the Company officials relative to prevailing rate schedules led the Company to voluntarily reduce both domestic and commercial rates in the Vancouver Island South area and the Alberni District served by the Company.

Further modifications of the utility's rates and conditions of service may be recommended as the Commission sees fit.

The Cumberland Electric Lighting Company, Ltd.

By an order dated May 8th, 1944, the Commission commenced an inquiry into the rates of the Cumberland Electric Lighting Company, Ltd. The order provided for an appraisal of the value of the property and an investigation of the adequacy of the service, condition of the property, and reasonableness of all expenditures and provision for reserves. This inquiry was undertaken by the Chief Engineer of the Commission. All costs are borne by the Company.

The appraisal and accounting survey have been completed and a public hearing has been set for January 10th, 1945.

West Canadian Hydro Electric Corporation, Ltd.

By an order dated October 31st, 1941, and approved by Order in Council No. 1526 on November 4th, 1941, the Chief Engineer of the Commission was instructed to make an appraisal and investigation of the rates and charges of the West Canadian Hydro Electric Corporation, Ltd. Preliminary work on this investigation has been completed by the staff of the Commission and the accounting survey by Price, Waterhouse & Company is almost complete. As soon as these reports are finished and the interested parties have had an opportunity to examine them a public hearing will be held.

West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Ltd.

By an order of the Commission dated May 10th, 1944, the Chief Engineer of the Commission was authorized to conduct an appraisal of the property and inquire into the reasonableness of the rates of the West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Ltd. A preliminary survey on this investigation has been made and it is hoped that the appraisal will be completed in 1945.

Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company, Ltd.

Early in 1943 the Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company, Ltd., made application for an increase in its irrigation rates. Subsequently a hearing was held but evidence produced at this hearing was not deemed sufficient to enable the Commission to determine what rates should be charged. Therefore, by an order dated May 1st, 1944, the Commission instructed that an appraisal of property and an investigation to determine the reasonableness of the Company's rates be made.

The appraisal and investigation of rates being completed, a public hearing was held at Okanagan Centre on July 20th, 1944. After making a complete and thorough study of the evidence presented, the Commission, by an order dated October 2nd, approved of an increase in irrigation rates during the 1944 irrigation season, provided that all income of the Company be used for replacements, office salaries and expenses, maintenance, insurance, and other operating expenses approved by the Commission, and provided that plant records and operating accounts be set up according to the classification as set out by the report of the Chief Engineer.

The Okanagan Development and Orchard Company, Ltd.

The Okanagan Development and Orchard Company, Ltd., is a public utility that supplies irrigation-water to farmers near Kelowna. Previous to the passing of the "Public Utilities Act" the irrigation rates charged by this Company were set each year by the Water Board. Since this time the Public Utilities Commission has continued to set the rates along the same lines as the Water Board had previously followed. This allowed for operating expenses, depreciation, and a return on the value of the works originally determined by the Water Board. Due to a number of complaints it was decided that an appraisal should be made of the property and that rates should be set under the principles laid down in the "Public Utilities Act." Accordingly on August 2nd, 1944, the Commission ordered that an inquiry be made to determine the just, reasonable, and sufficient rates to be charged for public utility service furnished by the Okanagan Development and Orchard Company, Ltd. As the Chief Engineer of the Commission had not completed the appraisal in time to set the rates for the 1944 irrigation season, a hearing was held on the 28th day of December, 1944, and the rates for the 1944 irrigation season were determined under the same principles as previously. Representations were also made at the hearing by both the consumers and the Company that an additional rate of $2 per acre per year be charged for three years to set up a fund to provide moneys for the construction of additional reservoir capacity. This additional rate was approved, together with conditions under which the said fund was to be administered.

SCHEDULE E.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.
("Public Utilities Act" and "Motor Carrier Act.")
1940–44.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenses.	
		"Motor Carrier Act."	"Public Utilities Act."
1940	$149,038.19	$69,229.50	$45,388.62
1941	171,170.06	67,952.13	43,935.09
1942	175,945.67	68,956.02	42,481.88
1943	173,714.09	63,274.33	40,724.35
1944	183,524.00	70,555.02	44,613.41
Totals	$853,392.01	$339,967.00	$217,143.35

Net revenue over expenses, 1940–44, $296,281.66.

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