

# Information about upcoming technical changes to the Public Utilities Act

Several technical changes to the Public Utilities Act (the Act) are being developed to improve the Yukon Utilities Board's (the Board's) efficiency and effectiveness while maintaining independence and authority over its procedures. These changes are designed to increase the Board's capacity and allow it to use its time and resources more effectively.

## General Rate Applications will occur periodically

- A General Rate Application will be required to begin within three years of the conclusion of the previous General Rate Application. The Board will have the discretion to extend this timeline if it is in the public interest.
- A predictable cycle of rate hearings is intended to stabilize electricity rates and avoid sharp increases to electricity bills.
- A more predictable rate review cycle will allow adequate time for preparation and can result in more efficient hearings.

## The maximum number of board members will be increased

- The maximum number of board members will change from 5 to 7 members.
- This will increase the Board's capacity by enabling the Board to host more than one proceeding at a time and to substitute members if needed.
- This will provide greater flexibility when scheduling hearings.

## Board members' appointments will continue if they are engaged in a hearing

- Board members whose term ends during a hearing may continue acting until the hearing is complete.
- This will provide greater flexibility when scheduling hearings and will eliminate situations where a hearing must pause or be stopped because a member's term has ended.

## Change to definitions of “energy resource” and “energy project”

- Under the current Act, definitions of “energy resource” and “energy project” do not include some modern and renewable energy technologies such as solar, geothermal, hydrogen or battery storage.
- These terms are used in the part of the Act that sets out a process for the Board to oversee major capital projects by utilities.
- This change will provide clear authority for the Board to review certain types of renewable energy projects going forward.

While the development of these changes is already underway, we are also engaging with the public, First Nations governments and stakeholder groups on further changes to the legislation. To participate in the engagement process, [complete the online survey](#) or email [publicutilitiesact@yukon.ca](mailto:publicutilitiesact@yukon.ca) for more information.