



What are Thermal Energy Systems (TES)?

A TES consists of equipment or facilities for the production, generation, storage, transmission or distribution of heat, hot water and/or cooling from one or more thermal energy sources.

Energy sources may include waste heat, renewable (solar, geothermal, biomass etc.) as well as non-renewable energy sources.

Under the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), a person who owns and/or operates a TES to provide heating or cooling for the public or a corporation for compensation (TES provider), is considered a public utility. The UCA sets out the BCUC's duties and authority for the regulation and general supervision of public utilities in British Columbia.

The UCA excludes a municipality or regional district providing services within its own boundaries from the definition of public utility and therefore, from regulation by the BCUC.

What are the TES guidelines?

The *TES Guidelines* provide an outline for how TES providers are regulated in British Columbia. The guidelines cover:

- Definition of a TES and providers
- Role of the BCUC
- Categories of TES
- TES regulation and exemptions

The *TES Guidelines* are available on the BCUC's website at bcuc.com/resources/guidelines.

What are the TES categories?

As some TES providers are exempt from certain provisions of the UCA, there are different categories of providers. The *TES Guidelines* provide more details and specific examples of each category.

Micro TES

- Has a capital cost of \$500,000 or less.

A Micro TES is exempt from active regulation by the BCUC.

Strata TES

- Is owned or operated by a Strata Corporation that supplies their unit owners.

A Strata TES is exempt from active regulation by the BCUC.

Stream A TES

- Is an on-site TES;
 - Has an Initial Capital Cost above \$500,000 but less than \$15,000,000; and,
 - Includes a number of other specific characteristics outlined in the *TES Guidelines*.
 - Is exempt from capital planning and rate regulation sections of the UCA.
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Stream B TES

- A TES that does not meet the requirements of Micro, Strata, or Steam A TES.
 - No exemptions, actively regulated by BCUC as a public utility.
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