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**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER** G-3-06

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**IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473**

and

**An Application by FortisBC Inc.
for Approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
for the Nk'Mip (East Osoyoos) Transmission and Substation Project**

BEFORE: L.F. Kelsey, Commissioner
A.J. Pullman, Commissioner January 17, 2006
L.A. O'Hara, Commissioner

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On October 12, 2005 FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC") applied to the Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") for the Nk'Mip Transmission and Substation Project ("the Project");
and
- B The Commission Panel, by Order No. G-114-05, ordered that an Oral Public Hearing be held to review the Application and set down a regulatory timetable and determined that no participant funding would be available for this hearing; and
- C. The Commission Panel issued a letter (Exhibit A-8) on December 22, 2005 describing the procedural format for the Oral Hearing; and
- D. The Commission Panel, by Letter No. L-01-06, varied Order No. G-114-05 to allow participants to apply for participant funding assistance; and

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E. On January 13, 2006, the Commission Panel received a request from the Intervenors, Osoyoos Now and Mr. Hans Karow to reschedule the hearing to allow time for the scheduling of witnesses and FortisBC supported this request in a letter to the Commission of January 13, 2006 and suggested that the original hearing date of January 21, 2006 be used as a Pre-hearing Conference to determine a further regulatory process; and

F. The Commission Panel has considered these requests and approves a variance to Order No. G-114-05.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission directs that the format for the Public Hearing originally scheduled for January 21, 2006 be changed to a Pre-hearing Conference to address procedural issues and the rescheduling of the formal evidentiary portion of the hearing as indicated in the Agenda for the Pre-hearing Conference attached as Appendix A.
2. Following the Pre-hearing Conference if time permits, the Commission will hold a Town Hall Meeting to allow Interested Parties and Intervenors an opportunity to make a submission to the Commission regarding the Application.
3. Intervenor and Interested Parties who make a presentation at the Town Hall Meeting will not be permitted to make further presentations during the formal evidentiary portion of the hearing without leave from the Chair.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 17th day of January 2006.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

L.F. Kelsey
Commissioner

Attachments

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AGENDA

Date: January 21, 2006
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: Osoyoos Seniors' Centre
17 Park Place, Osoyoos, B.C.

The Commission Panel will hear submissions on the following topics:

- Adjusted regulatory schedule for the formal evidentiary portion of the hearing.
- Issues to be addressed in the formal hearing.
- Presentation of evidence and evidentiary crossover from other hearings.
- Participant funding.
- Other procedural issues.