

**ORDER NUMBER
G-11-17**

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

FortisBC Inc.
Annual Review for 2017 Rates

BEFORE:

W. M. Everett, QC, Panel Chair/Commissioner
M. Kresivo, QC, Commissioner

on January 27, 2017

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On September 15, 2014, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) issued its decision and Order G-139-14 for FortisBC Inc. (FBC) approving a Multi-Year Performance Based Ratemaking (PBR) Plan for 2014 through 2019 (PBR Decision). In accordance with the PBR Decision, FBC is to conduct an annual review process to set rates for each year;
- B. By letter dated July 15, 2016, FBC proposed a regulatory timetable for its annual review for 2017 rates;
- C. By Order G-123-16 dated July 28, 2016, the Commission established the Regulatory Timetable for the annual review for 2017 rates which included the anticipated date for FBC to file its annual review materials, intervener registration, one round of information requests, a workshop, FBC's response to undertakings requested at the workshop, and written final and reply arguments;
- D. On August 8, 2016, FBC submitted its Annual Review for 2017 Rates Application materials (Application). In the Application, FBC requested approval of, among other things, a 3.60 percent permanent rate increase for 2017 to be applied to all components of rates for all customer classes;
- E. The following interveners registered in the proceeding:
 - BC Sustainable Energy Association and the Sierra Club of British Columbia;
 - British Columbia Municipalities Electric Utilities;
 - British Columbia Old Age Pensioners' Organization *et al.*;
 - Movement of United Professionals;
 - Commercial Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia;
 - Industrial Customers Group; and
 - Irrigation Ratepayers Group;

- F. On October 5, 2016, FBC submitted, by evidentiary update, an amendment to the Application reducing the originally requested permanent rate increase of 3.60 percent to 2.76 percent;
- G. By Order G-180-16 dated December 5, 2016, the Commission approved, pursuant to section 89 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), a 2.76 percent rate increase for 2017 to be applied to all components of rates for all customer classes on an interim basis. Pursuant to Directive 1, the Commission stated its final determination on permanent rates for 2017 will follow the completion of the FBC Application for Acceptance of Demand Side Management for 2017 Expenditures proceeding;
- H. By Order G-8-17 dated January 20, 2017, pursuant to sections 44.2 and 59 to 61 of the UCA, the Commission approved FBC's Application, including acceptance of the capital expenditure schedules for the Ruckles Substation Rebuild project and the Upper Bonnington Old Units Refurbishment project. The Commission also directed that the 2017 rates approved by Order G-180-16 remain interim pending the completion of the FBC Demand Side Management for 2017 Expenditures proceeding;
- I. By Order G-9-17 dated January 25, 2017, the Commission accepted the FBC Application for Acceptance of Demand Side Management for 2017 Expenditures; and
- J. The Commission has reviewed the Application and evidence filed in the proceeding and considers approval of permanent 2017 rates to be applied to all components of rates for all customer classes to be warranted.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the British Columbia Utilities Commission approves FortisBC Inc.'s application for a general rate increase of 2.76 percent to be applied to all components of rates for all customer classes on a permanent basis, effective January 1, 2017.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 27th day of January 2017.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

W. M. Everett, QC
Commissioner