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# ORDER NUMBER G-75-22

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

and

FortisBC Energy Inc.

Application for Approval of an Operating Agreement
between the Corporation of the City of Prince George and FortisBC Energy Inc.

#### **BEFORE:**

R. I. Mason, Panel Chair C. M. Brewer, Commissioner E. B. Lockhart, Commissioner

on March 14, 2022

### **ORDER**

### **WHEREAS:**

- A. On October 20, 2021, FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for approval of an operating agreement dated October 19, 2021 (FEI-Prince George Operating Agreement), between the Corporation of the City of Prince George (Prince George) and FEI (Application);
- B. FEI, through its predecessor company Terasen Gas Inc. (Terasen Gas), and Prince George entered into an Agreement to Lease dated November 1, 2004, approved by Order G-91-04;
- C. By Order G-91-04 dated October 7, 2004, the BCUC also granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity that approved the Franchise Amendment Agreement between Prince George and Terasen Gas, which expired October 31, 2021;
- D. FEI requests interim approval of the FEI-Prince George Operating Agreement if the BCUC does not make a final determination by November 1, 2021;
- E. By Order G-325-21 dated November 9, 2021, the BCUC granted interim approval of the FEI-Prince George Operating Agreement, pending a final determination by the BCUC on the Application;
- F. On November 18, 2021, the BCUC requested FEI to file the Lease-In-Lease-Out Agreement between FEI and the City of Prince George (LILO Agreement). On November 19, 2021, FEI filed the LILO Agreement;
- G. On February 10, 2022, BCUC issued BCUC Staff questions No. 1 to FEI. On March 3, 2022, FEI filed its responses to BCUC Staff Questions No. 1; and
- H. The BCUC has reviewed the Application and responses to BCUC Staff Questions No. 1 and determines that the establishment of a public hearing process is warranted.

Regulatory Timetable 1 of 2

**NOW THEREFORE** pursuant to section 23(1)(g) of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the BCUC orders as follows:

- 1. A public hearing process and a regulatory timetable is established, as set out in Appendix A to this order.
- 2. FEI must publish, no later than Thursday, April 7, 2022, on its website and in display-ad format, the Public Notice attached as Appendix B to this order. Publication should be in such appropriate news publications as may properly provide adequate notice to FEI customers in the City of Prince George.
- 3. FEI must provide an electronic copy of the Application to registered interveners in the FortisBC Multi-Year Rate Plan for Years 2020–2024 proceeding.
- 4. FEI must provide confirmation to the BCUC when the public notice has been posted, including a list of the publications (paper and digital) in which the notice was posted.
- 5. Parties who wish to participate in the proceeding may submit a letter of comment by Thursday April 21, 2022, as established in the regulatory timetable.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

R. I. Mason Commissioner

Attachment

# FortisBC Energy Inc. Application for Approval of an Operating Agreement between the Corporation of the City of Prince George and FortisBC Energy Inc.

# **REGULATORY TIMETABLE**

Action	Date (2022)
FEI to publish Public Notice	Thursday, April 7
Letters of comment deadline	Thursday, April 21
FEI response to letters of comment	Thursday, May 5
Further process	To be determined



# We want to hear from you

# OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE AND FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

On October 20, 2021, FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission for approval of an operating agreement with the City of Prince George. The operating agreement between both parties outlines the terms of administering and operating gas distribution facilities within the City of Prince George.

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

- Submit a letter of comment
- Register as an interested party

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

 Thursday, April 21, 2022 – Deadline to submit letters of comment.

For more information about the Application, please visit the <u>Proceeding Webpage</u> on bcuc.com under "Our Work – Proceedings." To learn more about getting involved, please visit our website at <u>www.bcuc.com/get-involved</u> or contact us at the information below.

# **GET MORE INFORMATION**

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### **British Columbia Utilities Commission**



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