



**ORDER NUMBER
G-253-25**

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

and

Creative Energy Vancouver Platforms Inc.
Creative Energy Vancouver Platforms Core TES RNG Bridging Fuel Rate

BEFORE:

E. B. Lockhart, Panel Chair
B. A. Magnan, Commissioner

on October 23, 2025

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On June 20, 2025, Creative Energy Vancouver Platforms Inc. (Creative Energy) applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, for approval of a renewable natural gas (RNG) bridging fuel service for Creative Energy's Core Thermal Energy System (Application);
- B. In the Application, Creative Energy requests approval to establish RNG Fuel Cost Adjustment Charge, as well as approval for the associated RNG Fuel Cost Adjustment Charge pricing methodology (Pricing Methodology). In addition, Creative Energy requests the establishment of an RNG Fuel Cost Stabilization Account to recover from or refund to its voluntary RNG customers any variances between Creative Energy's forecast and actual RNG fuel costs on a flow-through basis, effective January 1, 2026. Creative Energy also requests the BCUC to endorse its Request for Service form to enroll voluntary RNG customers;
- C. By Order C-5-22 dated September 15, 2022, the BCUC issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Creative Energy for its Core Steam System Decarbonization Project (Decarbonization Project). Creative Energy was directed to file a low carbon energy rate design application that addresses different customers' needs by June 30, 2023, which was extended to August 23, 2024 by various orders;
- D. By Order G-252-24, dated September 26, 2024, the BCUC rejected for filing Creative Energy's application for approval of a rate structure, rate design principles and associated conditions for a low carbon service. The BCUC found the application to be materially deficient in information required to commence an efficient and effective regulatory review process and granted Creative Energy leave to file another low carbon energy rate design application should it choose to do so;
- E. By Order G-94-25, dated April 10, 2025, the BCUC issued its decision related to Creative Energy's application for acceptance of a schedule of capital expenditures for its Decarbonization Project in order to complete the construction of the structure that will house its new steam plant and to connect Creative Energy's future

steam generating electric boilers and associated equipment (Decarbonization Plant) to its existing steam plant. In that proceeding, Creative Energy stated that it will use RNG purchased from FortisBC Energy Inc. as a temporary bridging measure until the Decarbonization Plant is completed;

- F. By Order G-171-25, the BCUC established a regulatory timetable for review of the Application, which included public notice of the Application, one round of BCUC Information requests, a letter of comment process, and Creative Energy's final argument;
- G. The BCUC received one letter of comment from the BC Sustainable Energy Association expressing support for the Application; and
- H. The BCUC has completed its review of the Application, evidence, and submissions filed in the proceeding, and makes the following determinations.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, and for the reasons outlined in the decision accompanying this order, the BCUC orders as follows:

- 1. Creative Energy is approved to establish an RNG Fuel Cost Adjustment Charge.
- 2. Creative Energy is approved to use the Pricing Methodology, effective January 1, 2026.
- 3. Creative Energy is approved to establish an RNG Fuel Cost Stabilization Account to recover from or refund to RNG customers any variances between Creative Energy's forecast and actual RNG fuel costs on a flow-through basis, effective January 1, 2026.
- 4. Creative Energy is directed to apply for BCUC approval of a rate for the RNG Fuel Cost Adjustment Charge no later than 30 days before the proposed effective date.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 23rd day of October 2025.

BY ORDER

Electronically signed by Blair Lockhart

E. B. Lockhart
Commissioner

DECISION

1.0 Application and Background

On June 20, 2025, Creative Energy Vancouver Platforms Inc. (Creative Energy) filed an application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), requesting approval to establish a Voluntary Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Bridging Fuel Rate for its Core Thermal Energy System (TES) Customers (Application) pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA).

Creative Energy seeks approval of the following:¹

- The establishment of an RNG Fuel Cost Adjustment Charge (FCAC) to the existing Steam Service Tariff, effective January 1, 2026;
- The establishment of an RNG Fuel Cost Stabilization Account (FCSA), effective January 1, 2026;
- An RNG Fuel Cost Adjustment Charge pricing methodology, effective January 1, 2026, which would remain in effect until Creative Energy applies for a new pricing methodology or the BCUC determines otherwise; and
- Endorsement of Creative Energy's Request for Service form, which allows Creative Energy to enroll customers under the RNG Bridging Fuel service prior to the end of 2025 and to provide this service to customers who subscribe to it starting on January 1, 2026.

Creative Energy states that it is only seeking approval of the rate structure, rate design methodology, and to establish the RNG FCSA at this time. Creative Energy submits it will apply to establish specific RNG FCAC rates if the proposed rate design is approved.²

By Order G-171-25, dated July 4, 2025, the BCUC established a regulatory timetable to review the Application, which included public notice of the Application, one round of BCUC Information requests, a letter of comment process and Creative Energy's final argument.

The Panel notes no parties raised any concerns regarding the Application. Creative Energy described its customer consultation, which demonstrated support for Creative Energy to offer its Core TES customers a voluntary RNG bridging fuel service as an avenue to comply with the City of Vancouver Bylaws related to greenhouse gas intensity limits and heat energy limits for the largest commercial buildings in Vancouver.³

The Panel accepts that Creative Energy's proposed RNG Bridging Fuel Service offers its customers a viable solution to comply with the City of Vancouver bylaws. Pursuant to section 59 of the UCA, the Panel considers the recovery mechanism and associated rate methodology to be just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential. Therefore, the Panel is satisfied that approval of the Application is warranted, with the exception of Creative Energy's request for the BCUC to endorse its Request for Service form.

Creative Energy is approved to (i) establish an RNG Fuel Cost Adjustment Charge; (ii) use the associated RNG Fuel Cost Adjustment Charge pricing methodology as set out in the Application; and (iii) establish an RNG Fuel

¹ Exhibit B-1, p. 1.

² Exhibit B-1, p. 1.

³ Exhibit B-1, Appendix C, City of Vancouver Letter to Creative Energy, dated August 9, 2024.

Cost Stabilization Account to recover from or refund to its voluntary RNG customers any variances between Creative Energy’s forecast and actual RNG fuel costs on a flow-through basis, effective January 1, 2026.

The remainder of this decision addresses the Panel’s reasons for declining to endorse the Request for Service form.

2.0 Creative Energy’s Request for Service Form

Creative Energy seeks BCUC endorsement of its Request for Service form. Creative Energy requires its customers to complete the Request for Service form in order to enroll in Creative Energy’s voluntary RNG bridging fuel service.⁴ The Request for Service form includes a section for Requested RNG Percentage, which allows the customer to nominate, in one percent increments, the percentage of RNG fuel it desires to incorporate into its overall energy usage.⁵

Creative Energy submits that this form is designed to ensure transparency and is intended to complement the thermal energy service agreement between the customer and Creative Energy. Creative Energy states that the form facilitates a streamlined application process while ensuring that all requisite details are captured to support compliance with regulatory requirements and City of Vancouver By-laws.⁶

Creative Energy requests approval of the Request for Service form pursuant to section 38 of the UCA. Creative Energy states that “this section requires that a utility’s service to the public must be adequate, efficient, and reasonable.” Creative Energy submits that by seeking approval under section 38 of the UCA, it aims to ensure that the BCUC reviews and endorses both the form and process used for enrolling customers in the RNG Bridging Fuel Service.⁷

Creative Energy acknowledges that its thermal energy service agreement and the proposed tariffs set out the key commercial and technical parameters for the RNG Bridging Fuel Service, including the option for selecting an RNG blend percentage. However, Creative Energy views that BCUC approval of the Request for Service form provides the BCUC with added transparency regarding Creative Energy’s customer enrolment process. Creative Energy submits approval of the Request for Service form is necessary to formalize the customer enrolment process itself for this new service. Creative Energy believes this approach mitigates potential uncertainties, supports regulatory oversight, and ultimately benefits customers by ensuring an open, fair, and efficient path to subscription to this new service.⁸

Creative Energy states that, while it would not oppose any determination from the BCUC that approval of the Request for Service form is unnecessary, it would appreciate feedback on the Request of Service form in the BCUC’s decision on the Application.⁹

Panel Discussion

For the reasons set out below, the Panel makes no suggestions or determinations on Creative Energy’s Request for Service form.

Creative Energy has requested the Panel endorse its Request for Service form pursuant to section 38 of the UCA, however, section 38 does not provide the BCUC with this authority. Pursuant to section 38, a public utility must

⁴ Exhibit B-1, Appendix D, Request for Service Form.

⁵ Exhibit B-1, p. 7.

⁶ Exhibit B-1, p. 7.

⁷ Exhibit B-3, BCUC IR 9.1.

⁸ Exhibit B-3, BCUC IR 9.2.

⁹ Exhibit B-3, BCUC IR 9.2.

provide and maintain its property and equipment in a condition that enables it to provide service to the public that the BCUC considers is in all respects adequate, safe, efficient, just and reasonable. These are service standards that public utilities must meet as regulated entities. The Panel sees no clear tie between the requirement set out in section 38 of the UCA for Creative Energy to provide service and maintain its system and the content of the Request for Service form.

The Request for Service form collects operational information of Creative Energy customers who voluntarily subscribe to the RNG Bridging Fuel service at a certain RNG percentage. The Panel considers that approval of the rate setting methodology pursuant to sections 59 to 61 under this order, along with the associated tariff when rates are determined in future BCUC processes, already grant Creative Energy the necessary regulatory approvals to provide the RNG Bridging Fuel service to its customers. Therefore, the Panel finds that there is no regulatory requirement for the BCUC to endorse Creative Energy's Request for Service form.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 23rd day of October 2025.

Electronically signed by Blair Lockhart

E.B. Lockhart,
Panel Chair

Electronically signed by Bernard Magnan

B. A. Magnan,
Commissioner