

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER G-86-10**

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250
VANCOUVER, BC V6Z 2N3 CANADA
web site: <http://www.b cuc.com>

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102



**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 2009 Rate Design and Cost of Service Analysis**

BEFORE: A.J. Pullman, Panel Chair & Commissioner
L.A. O'Hara, Commissioner
M.R. Harle, Commissioner
May 25, 2010

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On October 30, 2009, FortisBC filed a 2009 Rate Design and Cost of Service Analysis (Application) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission, pursuant to Sections 58 and 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act*. The Application contains updated rate structures and customer service guidelines, for which FortisBC seeks Commission approval; and
- B. The oral public hearing of the Application began on Monday, May 3, 2010 and concluded on Friday, May 7, 2010. During the course of the proceedings on May 7, 2010 the Commission approved a preliminary schedule for Final Argument as agreed upon by the parties in view of the undertaking of FortisBC to file a revised Cost of Service Analysis (revised COSA) by May 14, 2010. The Commission allowed interveners until May 21, 2010 to consider the revised COSA once filed and to advise the Commission in writing whether a further process beyond the preliminary schedule for Final Argument was required. The Commission further left the evidentiary record open pending receipt of comments from the interveners; and
- C. On May 14, 2010, FortisBC filed the revised COSA (Exhibit B-35), providing summary tables showing various scenarios requested by the Commission and interveners; and
- D. Six interveners made submissions addressing further process: Big White Ski Resort (BWSR), Mr. Andy Shadrack, the British CMEU, the Irrigation Ratepayers Group (IRG), the British Columbia Old Age Pensioners Organisation *et al* (BCOAPO), and Zellstoff Celgar Limited Partnership; and
- E. BWSR, Mr. Shadrack and BCOAPO support a further process with respect to revised COSA. All other interveners submit that no further process is required; and

- F. In its submission dated May 18, 2010, BWSR states its belief that the Commission should assign no weight to the evidence provided in the revised COSA, and should, instead, proceed on the existing evidence and timetable to set rates for FortisBC. In the alternative, BWSR requests that the Commission extend the evidentiary phase of the proceeding (possibly reconvening the oral hearing) to allow for a full and comprehensive review of the rates suggested by the revised COSA results; and
- G. In his submission also dated May 18, 2010, Mr. Shadrack states that he supports the "basic premise" of the BWSR submission; and
- H. In its submission, dated May 21, 2010, BCOAPO takes issue with aspects of the BWSR submission, and proposes a further round of information requests rather than the reconvening the oral hearing. The BCOAPO also proposes the revision of dates for final submissions to allow for the further information requests and responses; and
- I. In its submission dated May 21, 2010, the IRG submits that that no further process is required for the revised COSA, but also comments that some of the submitted figures concerning irrigation customers in another exhibit, Exhibit B-33, may be inaccurate; and
- J. The Commission Panel has considered the exhibits filed by FortisBC during the oral hearing, the revised COSA and the intervenor submissions.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission determines as follows:

- 1. The evidentiary phase of the hearing is extended to allow one round of information requests on FortisBC Exhibits B-33 and B-35. The schedule for the information requests is shown in the Supplementary Regulatory Timetable in Appendix A.
- 2. A proposed schedule for the Final Argument phase is shown in Appendix "B." The Commission invites Interveners to comment on the proposed schedule via written submissions, which should be sent to the Commission by Friday, June 4, 2010.

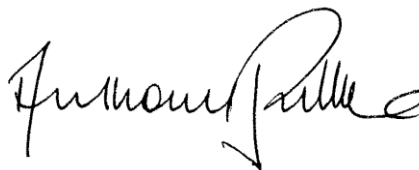
**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER** G-86-10

3

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 25th day of May 2010.

BY ORDER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Pullman', written in a cursive style.

A. J. Pullman
Panel Chair and Commissioner

Attachments

An Application by FortisBC Inc.
for Approval of a 2009 Rate Design and Cost of Service Analysis

Supplementary Regulatory Timetable

Action	Date(2010)
Information Requests on Exhibits B-33 and B-35	Wednesday, June 2
Submissions on Schedule for Final Argument	Friday, June 4
FortisBC Responses to Information Requests on Exhibits B-33 and B-35	Wednesday, June 16
Final Argument	To Be Determined

An Application by FortisBC Inc.
for Approval of a 2009 Rate Design and Cost of Service Analysis

Proposed Schedule of Final Argument

Action	Date (2010)
FortisBC Final Argument	Tuesday, June 22
Intervener Final Argument	Wednesday, July 07
FortisBC Reply Argument	Wednesday, July 14
Intervener Reply to Other Intervener Final Argument	Wednesday, July 14
FortisBC Further Reply to Interveners (if applicable)	Friday, July 16