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**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER F-21-15**

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

and

Application for Participant Assistance / Cost Award
for the FortisBC Energy Inc. and FortisBC Inc.
Multi-Year Performance Based Ratemaking Plans for 2014 through 2019
Approved by Decision and Orders G-138-14 and G-139-14
Capital Exclusion Criteria under PBR – Compliance Filing

BEFORE: D. M. Morton, Panel Chair / Commissioner
D. A. Cote, Commissioner
N. E. MacMurchy, Commissioner

September 10, 2015

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On September 14, 2014, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Orders G-138-14 and G-139-14 for FortisBC Inc. and FortisBC Energy Inc. (together, FortisBC) approving the Performance Based Ratemaking Plans (PBR Plans) for 2014 through 2019 (FEI Decision and FBC Decision);
- B. On pages 180 to 181 of the FEI Decision and pages 174 to 175 of the FBC Decision, the Commission requested submissions from all parties on issues related to capital projects and the criteria to determine whether they should be excluded from the capital spending formulas in the PBR Plans;
- C. On December 19, 2014, the Commission issued Order G-203-14 establishing the regulatory timetable for the submissions;
- D. The British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Centre representing the British Columbia Old Age Pensioners' Organization *et al* (BCOAPO *et al.*); the Commercial Class Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia (CEC); and the Industrial Customers Group (ICG) submitted PACA budgets and applications for their participation in the proceeding;
- E. Commission Order G-72-07 established Guidelines for PACA applications;

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- F. By letter dated August 24, 2015, FortisBC stated that it “has reviewed the PACA applications, and so long as the Commission has no concerns with the time identified or the amounts applied for, FortisBC has no comment”; and
- G. Pursuant to the PACA Guidelines, the Panel determines the entitlement to a full or partial award taking into account the criteria in the Guidelines, the information provided by the participant and variances in estimates provided. While pending further information from ICG, the Commission is satisfied that BCOAPO *et al.* and CEC should receive a participant assistance cost award to recover costs for its contribution to the proceeding.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. Pursuant to section 118 (1) of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the Commission awards funds in the following amounts to the British Columbia Old Age Pensioners’ Organization *et al* (BCOAPO *et al.*) and the Commercial Class Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia (CEC) for their participation in this proceeding:

Participant	Application Amount	Award Amount	FortisBC Inc. Portion	FortisBC Energy Inc. Portion
BCOAPO <i>et al.</i>	\$5832.75	\$5832.75	\$2916.38	\$2916.38
CEC	\$4060.88	\$4060.88	\$2030.44	\$2030.44

2. FortisBC Inc. and FortisBC Energy Inc. are directed to reimburse the BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre on behalf of BCOAPO *et al.* and CEC for the amounts awarded and allocated in the above table in a timely manner.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 10th day of September, 2015.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D. M. Morton
Commissioner