



**ORDER NUMBER
G-75-16**

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

and

FortisBC Inc.
Net Metering Program Tariff Update Application

BEFORE:

H. G. Harowitz, Panel Chair/Commissioner
R. I. Mason, Commissioner
R. D. Revel, Commissioner

on May 26, 2016

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On April 15, 2016, FortisBC Inc. (FBC) filed its Net Metering Program Tariff Update Application (Application) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission);
- B. In the Application, FBC requests approval for:
 - Changes to Rate Schedule (RS) 95 to clarify the intent of the Net Metering Program as described in Section 4 of the Application and reflected in the revised RS 95 tariff contained in Appendix C.
 - Use of a kWh Bank to carry forward Net Excess Generation (NEG) for an annual period with compensation at the end of that annual period.
 - Compensate customers for that remaining unused NEG at the BC Hydro RS 3808 Tranche 1 rate currently priced at 4.303 cents per kWh plus a 5 percent rate rider, instead of valued at rates specified in the applicable Rate Schedule and credited to the customer's account as a dollar value that contributes to the overall financial standing of the account;
- C. In addition, FBC requests Commission acceptance of its approach to the billing calculation methodology for RS 95. FBC submits this requires no changes to the Tariff or program documentation but will remove the potential for misunderstanding about the application of the Net Metering Tariff schedule;
- D. On May 3, 2016, by way of Order G-59-16, the Commission established a Regulatory Timetable for review of the Application through a written hearing process with one round of information requests;
- E. On May 18, 2016, the Commission received a letter of comment from a group of six FBC net-metering customers from the Kaslo area (Exhibit E-2) asking the Commission to:
 - direct FBC to outline in writing the financial facts for the claims made in the Application prior to the June 8, 2016 deadline for submission of the intervener information requests;

- add an oral portion to the hearing after FBC has responded to the first round of information requests; and
- slow down the hearing process to give them time to prepare appropriate input and consult with other FBC net-metering customers; and

F. The Panel finds that a revision to the Regulatory Timetable is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE, and for the reasons set out in Appendix A to this order, the British Columbia Utilities Commission orders as follows:

1. The Regulatory Timetable established by Order G-59-16 is amended and attached as Appendix A to this order.
2. Following the receipt of FortisBC Inc.'s Information Request No. 1 responses, the Panel invites applicant and intervener submissions on further process by Monday, July 4, 2016. The Panel will establish the remainder of the Regulatory Timetable upon consideration of the submissions received on this matter.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 26th day of May 2016.

BY ORDER

Original Signed By:

H. G. Harowitz
Commissioner

Attachment

FortisBC Inc.
Net Metering Program Tariff Update Application

REASONS FOR DECISION

On May 18, 2016, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) received a letter of comment from a group of six FortisBC Inc. (FBC) net-metering customers from the Kaslo area (Exhibit E-2) asking the Commission to:

- direct FBC to outline in writing the financial facts for the claims made in the FBC Net Metering Program Tariff Update Application (Application) prior to the June 8, 2016 deadline for submission of the intervenor information requests;
- add an oral portion to the hearing after FBC has responded to the first round of information requests; and
- slow down the hearing process to give them time to prepare appropriate input and consult with other FBC net-metering customers.

The letter of comment also stated:

In exhibit A2 Ms Roy references the Commission receiving the original application from FortisBC on February 5th, 2016. Yet FortisBC did not write a notification letter to us until April 26th, and before we even had a chance to contact FortisBC, as invited to in their letter to us, the Commission panel set a regulatory timetable without so much as allowing us to make a single comment as to how this hearing should be framed.

Commission determination

The Panel is committed to issuing a well-reasoned, principled decision based on sound evidence brought forward by well represented parties.

The Panel determines that the Regulatory Timetable should therefore be amended to allow for submissions on the regulatory process. However, to promote regulatory efficiency, the Panel considers that intervenors and the applicant will be better positioned to make submissions on the need for further process after, rather than before, FBC has responded to the first round of intervenor and Commission information requests. At that time, intervenors will have the benefit of FBC responses to any information requests they have submitted (including requests for FBC to outline the financial facts for the claims made in the Application), as well as FBC responses to Commission and other intervenor information requests.

The Panel also notes that the covering letter to Order G-59-16 incorrectly states that the FBC Application was received on February 5, 2016. The Application was received on April 15, 2016 as stated in Order G-59-16. The cover letter to Order G-59-16 will be amended to correct for this error.

FortisBC Inc.
Net Metering Program Tariff Update Application

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

ACTION	DATE (2016)
Intervener and Interested Party Registration Deadline	Thursday, May 26
Deadline for Submitting Participant Assistance/Cost Award Budgets	Monday, June 6
Commission Information Request No. 1	Wednesday, June 8
Intervener Information Request No. 1	Wednesday, June 15
FortisBC Response to Information Requests No. 1	Wednesday, June 22
FortisBC and Intervener Submissions on Further Process	Monday, July 4
Further Process to be Determined	TBD