



ORDER NUMBER
G-241-19

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

and

FortisBC Energy Inc. and FortisBC Inc.
Application for Approval of a Multi-Year Rate Plan for the Years 2020 through 2024

BEFORE:

D. A. Cote, Panel Chair
A. K. Fung, QC, Commissioner
K. A. Keilty, Commissioner
E. B. Lockhart, Commissioner

on October 8, 2019

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 11, 2019, FortisBC Energy Inc. and FortisBC Inc. (collectively, FortisBC) applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for approval of a proposed Multi-Year Rate Plan for the years 2020 through 2024, pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (Application);
- B. The Application seeks approval of a rate-setting framework for FortisBC for the upcoming five years, including, among other things, incentive mechanisms, an innovation fund, a forecast of capital expenditures and service quality indicators. The Application also seeks approval of deferral accounts, updated depreciation rates, capitalization rates and other supporting studies;
- C. By Order G-64-19 dated March 20, 2019, the BCUC established a public hearing process for the review of the Application which included, among other things, a workshop on key elements of the Application, BCUC and intervenor information request (IR) no. 1, FortisBC responses to IR no. 1 and a procedural conference to be held on July 9, 2019;
- D. On July 3, 2019, the BCUC issued a letter identifying several procedural matters to be addressed at the procedural conference;
- E. By letter dated July 8, 2019, FortisBC provided initial comments on the procedural matters set out in the BCUC's letter (Pre-filed Comments);
- F. In accordance with the regulatory timetable established by Order G-64-19, the procedural conference took place on July 9, 2019 and was attended by FortisBC and the following interveners:

- British Columbia Municipal Electrical Utilities;
 - British Columbia Old Age Pensioners' Organization *et al.*;
 - British Columbia Sustainable Energy Association;
 - Commercial Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia;
 - Movement of United Professionals; and
 - Industrial Customers Group;
- G. By Order G-156-19 dated July 15, 2019, the BCUC established a further regulatory timetable for the review of the Application;
- H. By letter dated September 25, 2019, the BCUC confirmed that the regulatory timetable with intervenor evidence, as set out in Order G-156-19 would be followed;
- I. By letter dated September 30, 2019, FortisBC requested an amendment to the regulatory timetable established by Order G-156-19 to advance the date for the procedural conference, currently scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019. FortisBC stated that the current date of the procedural conference leaves little time between a decision on the need for and scope of a potential oral component of the proceeding, and the placeholder dates for that oral component, if required. FortisBC submitted that this will impact the ability of all parties to prepare for a potential hearing and for FortisBC in particular to finalize and prepare its witness panels; and
- J. The BCUC has reviewed FortisBC's requested amendment and considers that an amendment to the regulatory timetable is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE, the BCUC amends the regulatory timetable established by Order G-156-19. The amended regulatory timetable for the review of the Application is attached as Appendix A to this order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 8th day of October 2019.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D. A. Cote
Commissioner

Attachment

FortisBC Energy Inc. and FortisBC Inc.
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REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2019)
Parties Information Requests (IRs) on Intervener Evidence	Monday, October 28
Procedural Conference* to Determine Further Process	Thursday, October 31 commencing at 9:00 am
Intervener Responses to IRs on Evidence	Tuesday, November 19
FortisBC Rebuttal Evidence (if any)	Tuesday, November 26
Placeholder for Potential Oral Public Process	Week of December 16

*Location: BCUC Hearing Room
12th Floor, 1125 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC