



ORDER NUMBER
G-60-20

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

and

FortisBC Energy Inc.
Biomethane Purchase Agreement between FortisBC Energy Inc.
and REN Energy International Corporation

BEFORE:

T.A. Loski, Panel Chair
E.B. Lockhart, Commissioner
R.I. Mason, Commissioner

on March 25, 2020

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On February 7, 2020, pursuant to sections 71 of *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) and the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) Rules for Natural Gas Energy Supply Contracts (Rules), FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) applied to the BCUC seeking acceptance of a Biomethane Purchase Agreement (BPA) between FEI and REN Energy International Corporation (REN) (Application);
- B. Section 18(1) of the *Clean Energy Act* (CEA) defines a prescribed undertaking as “...a project, program, contract or expenditure that is in a class of projects, programs, contracts or expenditures prescribed for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia”;
- C. Section 18(3) of the CEA states, “The commission must not exercise a power under the UCA in a way that would directly or indirectly prevent a public utility...from carrying out a prescribed undertaking”;
- D. Section 2(3.8) of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation (GGRR) states that the acquisition of renewable natural gas (RNG) is a prescribed undertaking subject to:
 - 1. The public utility paying no more than \$30/GJ; and
 - 2. The total volume of RNG purchased in a calendar year does not exceed 5 percent of the total volume of natural gas provided by public utility to its non-bypass customers in 2015;

- E. Under the BPA, REN will supply biomethane, which is a type of RNG, processed from wood waste in a facility located in Fruitvale, British Columbia, which will be purchased by FEI for injection into FEI's existing natural gas system;
- F. By Order G-44-20 dated March 6, 2020, pursuant to Section 18 of the BCUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure set out in Order G-15-19 and section 71(5) of the UCA, the BCUC established a regulatory process for the review of the Application, which included BCUC staff questions and approved FEI's request that the redacted portions of the filing and certain appendices be kept confidential due to their commercially sensitive nature;
- G. The BCUC has not reviewed the Application from a public interest perspective as the BPA is a prescribed undertaking under section 18(1) of the CEA; and
- H. The BCUC has reviewed the Application and considers the following determination to be warranted.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to section 71 of the UCA, section 18 of the CEA and the GGRR, the BCUC accepts for filing the BPA between FEI and REN.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 25th day of March 2020.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

T.A. Loski
Commissioner