



ORDER NUMBER
G-97-20

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

and

FortisBC Energy Inc. and FortisBC Inc.
Application for Approval of
COVID-19 Customer Recovery Fund Deferral Account

BEFORE:

D. M. Morton, Panel Chair
A. K. Fung, QC, Commissioner
T. A. Loski, Commissioner
R. I. Mason, Commissioner

on April 24, 2020

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On April 3, 2020 FortisBC Inc. (FBC) and FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) (collectively FortisBC), filed an application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for approval, pursuant to sections 59 to 61 and 91 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, of the following for each of FBC and FEI (Application):
- (i) The discretion to offer a three-month bill payment deferral to residential customers, and to small commercial customers served under FEI Rate Schedules 2, 2B, 2U and 2X, and FBC Rate Schedules 20 and certain Rate Schedule 22 customers that meet the Rate Schedule 20 size restrictions who have been directly impacted financially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (ii) The discretion to offer bill relief in the form of bill credits for three months, starting April 1, 2020 through to July 1, 2020, to small commercial customers served under FEI Rate Schedules 2, 2B, 2U and 2X and FBC Rate Schedule 20 that have been ordered to temporarily close their businesses to comply with public health orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
 - (iii) Establishment of a rate base deferral account for the COVID-19 Customer Recovery Fund to record (a) any unrecovered revenue resulting from customers being unable to pay their bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be tracked separately by rate schedule, (b) any bill payment deferrals provided to customers due the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent payments of those deferred amounts; and (c) any bill credits provided to customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B. FortisBC states that the Application was filed in response to the growing impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic in British Columbia and the State of Emergency declared in the province;
- C. On April 6, 2020, the BCUC issued information requests (IRs) to FortisBC, received responses by FortisBC, and held a web-based hearing to review the Application;

- D. By Order G-80-20 and Order G-81-20 dated April 7, 2020, the BCUC granted interim approval for FortisBC and established a public hearing process, which included Intervener Registration and requested that Interveners advise the BCUC of their intent to submit written IRs on the Application; and
- E. The BCUC has received and reviewed submissions from BC Sustainable Energy Association, Commercial Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia, British Columbia Old Age Pensioner's Organization et al, Movement of United Professionals, Mr. N. Gabana and Mr. Andy Shadrack, and finds that establishing a further regulatory timetable is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE, the BCUC establishes a further regulatory timetable for the review of the Application, as set out in Appendix A to this order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 24th day of April 2020.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

D. M. Morton
Commissioner

Attachment

FortisBC Energy Inc. and FortisBC Inc.
COVID-19 Customer Recovery Fund Deferral Account

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2020)
Intervener Information Request (IR) No. 1	Friday, May 1
FortisBC Responses to Intervener IR No. 1	Friday, May 8
FortisBC Final Argument	Wednesday, May 13
Intervener Final Argument	Wednesday, May 20
FortisBC Reply Argument	Monday, May 25