

ERICA M. HAMILTON COMMISSION SECRETARY Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com web site: http://www.bcuc.com

VIA E-MAIL regulatory@fortisbc.com

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250 VANCOUVER, B.C. CANADA V6Z 2N3 TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700 BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385 FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

Log No. 23318

January 4, 2008

FORTISBC INC.
AMI PROJECT

EXHIBIT A-1

Mr. David Bennett
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & General Counsel
Regulatory Affairs Department
FortisBC Inc.
1290 Esplanade
PO Box 130
Trail, BC V1R 4L4

Dear Mr. Bennett:

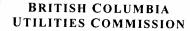
Re: FortisBC Inc.
Project No. 3698493/Order No. G-1-08
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Application for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

Further to your December 19, 2007 application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project, enclosed is Commission Order No. G-1-08 establishing a Written Public Hearing and Regulatory Timetable.

Yours truly,

Erica M. Hamilton

CMS/dlf Enclosure



ORDER NUMBER

G-1-08

CTILITIES COMMISSION

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### IN THE MATTER OF the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Application by FortisBC Inc. for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

**BEFORE:** 

R.H. Hobbs, Chair

January 3, 2008

### ORDER

### WHEREAS:

- A. On December 19, 2007 FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC") applied (the "Application") to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (the "Commission") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") Project (the "Project"); and
- B. FortisBC states that the Project is estimated to cost \$31.3 million and will enhance customer service and result in operational savings; and
- C. The Project consists of replacing all existing FortisBC meters with AMI-enabled meters and implementing AMI throughout FortisBC's service territory; and
- D. The Project is scheduled to commence in 2008 and to be completed by the end of 2010; and
- E. The Commission considers that a written public hearing is required for the regulatory review of the Application.

BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER

NUMBER

G-1-08

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### NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

- 1. A written public hearing process for review of the Application, and establishes the Regulatory Timetable attached as Appendix A.
- 2. FortisBC shall publish, as soon as possible, in display-ad format, the Notice of Application and Written Public Hearing Process, attached as Appendix B, in sufficient newspapers in the FortisBC service area to adequately inform the public of the Project.
- 3. Intervenors and Interested Parties should register with the Commission, in writing or electronic submission, by Friday, February 8, 2008.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this

4

day of January 2008.

BY ORDER

Robert H. Hobbs

Chair

Attachments

### FortisBC Inc. for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

### **REGULATORY TIMETABLE**

ACTION	DATE (2008)
Commission Information Request No. 1	Tuesday, January 29
Intervenor Information Requests No. 1	Tuesday, February 5
Registration of Intervenors and Interested Parties	Friday, February 8
Intervenor Participant Assistance Budgets	Thursday, February 14
FortisBC Responses to Information Requests No. 1	Tuesday, February 26
Commission and Intervenor Information Requests No. 2	Wednesday, March 5
FortisBC Responses to Information Requests No. 2	Wednesday, March 19
FortisBC Final Submission	Wednesday, March 26
Intervenor Final Submission	Friday, April 4
FortisBC Reply Submission	Friday, April 11



APPENDIX B to Order No. G-1-08 Page 1 of 2

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# An Application by FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND WRITTEN PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS

### THE APPLICATION

On December 19, 2007 FortisBC applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission") for approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (the "Application") for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project (the "AMI Project").

The AMI Project consists of replacing all FortisBC meters with remotely-read meters. The new meters are expected to enable innovative rate structures in support of the 2007 Energy Plan. The new meters are also expected to eliminate the use of estimates and increase the accuracy of customer bills.

The total cost of the AMI Project is estimated at \$31.3 million, and is scheduled to commence in 2008 and to be completed by the end of 2010.

### **INTERVENTIONS**

Persons who expect to actively participate in the FortisBC proceeding should register as Intervenors with the Commission in writing, no later than Friday, February 8, 2008. Intervenors are requested to identify their interest in the Application. Intervenors will each receive a copy of the Application and all correspondence and filed documentation in accordance with the Commission's Document Filing Protocols.

Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the proceeding, should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by the same date. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Executive Summary in the Application and the Commission's Decision when issued.

All submissions and/or correspondence received from active participants or the general public relating to the Application will be placed on the public record and posted to the Commission's web site at <a href="https://www.bcuc.com">www.bcuc.com</a>.

The Commission Panel in a proceeding may award costs for participation, pursuant to the Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines, under Section 118 of the Act. The Guidelines are available at <a href="https://www.bcuc.com/Guidelines.aspx">www.bcuc.com/Guidelines.aspx</a>. Participants intending to apply for participant assistance must file a budget by Thursday, February 14, 2008.

### PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The Application and supporting materials will be available for inspection at the following locations:

### **British Columbia Utilities Commission**

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3 Telephone: 1-800-663-1385

**FortisBC Inc.,** Head Office 1975 Springfield Road, Suite 100 Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 7V7

**FortisBC Inc.,** Trail Office 1290 Esplanade Trail, B.C. V1R 4L4

Internet www.bcuc.com and www. fortisbc.com

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information, please contact Ms. Erica Hamilton, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Don Flintoff, Senior Electrical Engineer, as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700

Telephone (BC Toll Free): 1-800-663-1385

Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

E-mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com