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**VIA E-MAIL**

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April 30, 2008

**FORTISBC INC.  
AMI PROJECT**

**EXHIBIT A-8**

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. ("FortisBC")  
Project No. 3698493– Order No. G-1-08  
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity  
for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") Project

By letter dated April 2, 2008 (Exhibit A-6), the British Columbia Utilities Commission (the "Commission") requested submissions from FortisBC and from Intervenor regarding certain process issues regarding the Amended Application (Exhibit B-6) and Bill 15-2008 ("Bill 15"). By letter dated April 14, 2008 (Exhibit A-7), the Commission requested reply submissions from FortisBC. Submissions were received from FortisBC (Exhibit B-9 and Exhibit B-10), British Columbia Old Age Pensioners Organization et al. ("BCOAPO") (Exhibit C4-5), Horizon Technologies Inc. ("Horizon") (Exhibit C5-3), and Mr. Hans Karow (Exhibit C2-4).

FortisBC submits that the definition of "Smart Meters" in Section 64.04(1) of Bill 15 does not apply to public utilities other than BC Hydro, although the Amended Application will provide benefits consistent with "Smart Meters" (Exhibit B-9, p. 2). Further, FortisBC submits that a further round of information requests should be limited to the Amended Application.

BCOAPO agrees with FortisBC that Bill 15 does not mandate "Smart Meters" for FortisBC, but submits, for other reasons, that the application is premature. BCOAPO also observes that FortisBC claims energy efficiency and conservation benefits of AMI, but has given no details (Exhibit C4-5). BCOAPO submits that Bill 15 does not change the authority of the Commission to determine the best interests of customers.

Horizon submits that the regulations to be produced by the government regarding "Smart Meters" may require another amendment to the application (Exhibit C5-3, p. 1). Horizon requests two rounds of unrestricted information requests and that Intervenor be given the opportunity to file evidence.

Mr. Karow submits that further rounds of information requests should not be limited to the amendment, especially when many earlier information requests have not been answered (Exhibit C2-4, p. 1).

The Commission Panel agrees with FortisBC that the Regulatory Timetable should not be postponed until after the “Smart Meters” regulations have been enacted. Although the Commission Panel has decided not to postpone the Regulatory Timetable, this decision does not change the scope of the proceeding. In particular, the Commission Panel considers both the timing of the implementation of the AMI project and the conditions and timing of a CPCN, if granted, for the AMI project to be issues for consideration with the final decision in this matter.

The Commission Panel accepts the submission of FortisBC that new matters arising from amendments to the original Application and Bill 15 can be adequately addressed by one further round of Information Requests restricted to the amendments, including amendments to responses to the first and second round of Information Requests, and Bill 15.

The Commission Panel agrees with Horizon and BCOAPO that Intervenors should be given an opportunity to file evidence.

Accordingly, the Commission Panel encloses Order No. G-62-08 establishing an Amended Regulatory Timetable.

Yours truly,

*Original signed by:*

*Constance M. Smith*

*for:* Erica M. Hamilton

cms

Attachment

cc: Registered Intervenors (*FBC-AMI-RI*)

**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER  
NUMBER G-62-08**



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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  
A.A. Rhodes, Commissioner April 30, 2008

**O R D E R**

**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. On January 4, 2008 the Commission issued Order No. G-1-08 and established a written public hearing process to review the Application; and
- F. On March 19, 2008 FortisBC notified the Commission that FortisBC intended to file, on or before March 31, 2008, an amendment to the Application augmenting the functionality of the preferred solution beyond that initially proposed, specifically by means of a provision for hourly readings through a Validation, Estimation and Editing ("VEE") equipped Meter Data Management Repository, and support for in-home consumption display capabilities; and

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UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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- G. On March 20, 2008 the BC Old Age Pensioners Organization *et al.* (“BCOAPO”) requested another round of information requests based on the amended application; and
- H. On March 28, 2008 FortisBC amended the Application to include a VEE equipped Meter Data Management Repository and support for in-home consumption display capabilities at a cost of \$37.3 million (“the Amended Application”); and
- I. If the Commission does not approve the Amended Application, FortisBC respectfully submits that the AMI Project Application, as submitted on December 19, 2007, still provides valuable enhancements to customer service while supporting the BC Energy Plan initiatives in a cost effective manner and should be approved; and
- J. FortisBC believes that the Amended Application is in the best interest of customers and offers more flexibility and support for the BC Energy Plan at a reasonable cost; and
- K. FortisBC proposes an extended regulatory process, which incorporates a third round of Commission and Intervenor Information Requests. FortisBC has provided updated responses, where it considered appropriate, to reflect the Amended Application to the Commission and Intervenor Information Requests No. 1 and 2 and therefore respectfully submits that the proposed addition of Information Request No. 3 be limited to the additional content of the Amended Application; and
- L. On April 1, 2008 the Commission requested FortisBC to file any amendments to the Amended Application and to file comments on the Regulatory Timetable, which might be necessitated by the recently proposed Utilities Commission Amendment Act, 2008 (“Bill 15”), and requested the Intervenor to file their comments within 5 business days of the date of the FortisBC response; and
- M. On April 4, 2008 FortisBC filed its comments on the Regulatory Timetable and Bill 15; and
- N. On April 11, 2008 Mr. Karow, Horizon Technologies Inc., and BCOAPO filed their comments on the Regulatory Timetable and Bill 15; and
- O. On April 14, 2008 the Commission requested FortisBC to respond to the Intervenor’s Submissions concerning the postponement of the Regulatory Timetable; and
- P. The Commission has reviewed the submissions, comments and responses from FortisBC and the Intervenor; and
- Q. The Commission considers that the Amended Application is in the public interest and that the scope of Information Request No. 3 will be limited to the content of the Amendment to the Original Application.

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**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission establishes the Amended Regulatory Timetable attached as Appendix A.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2008.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Robert H. Hobbs  
Chair

Attachment

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

**AMENDED REGULATORY TIMETABLE**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE (2008)</b>
Commission and Intervenor Information Requests No. 3	Thursday, May 8
FortisBC Responses to Information Requests No. 3	Thursday, May 22
Intervenor Evidence	Thursday, May 29
Commission and FortisBC Information Requests to Intervenor	Monday, June 2
Intervenor Responses to Information Requests	Monday, June 9
FortisBC Final Submission	Friday, June 13
Intervenor Final Submission	Thursday, June 19
FortisBC Reply Submission	Wednesday, June 25