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VIA E-MAIL

June 29, 2007

**FORTISBC ~ NARAMATA
SUBSTATION CPCN**

EXHIBIT A-9

To: Registered Intervenors (*FBC-Naramata-RI*)

Re: FortisBC Inc.
Project No. 3698458 – Order No. G-42-07
Customer Complaints regarding the proposed site of
the Naramata Substation Project

**Oral Public Hearing Commencing at 9:00 am on Tuesday, July 24, 2007
Penticton Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre
21 Lakeshore Drive W., Penticton, B.C.**

The following will provide participants in the Naramata Substation Project Public Hearing with information to assist them by explaining the process. For others who simply want to observe the proceedings, make a statement about the Applications, or submit a Letter of Comment, this document will also help.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT THE ORAL PUBLIC HEARING?

The Hearing will generally proceed in the following order:

- **On Tuesday, July 24, 2007, the Oral Public Hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. at the Penticton Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre.** The presiding Chair of the Commission Panel will make an Opening Statement which outlines the nature of the FortisBC Application, schedule for the day, addresses certain procedural matters for the Public Hearing, and comments on the planned sitting hours.
- FortisBC, followed by Intervenors, will then be called upon according to the Order of Appearances.¹ When a participant's name is called, the participant or his or her counsel or representative comes forward stating for the record who they are or whom they represent.
- If any participant has a preliminary matter or motion that he or she wishes to address or bring at the commencement of the Hearing and prior to evidence being heard by the Commission Panel, the participant must advise Commission Counsel of that matter or motion by **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 17, 2007.**
- The Commission Panel will deal with any preliminary matters or motions prior to the hearing of the evidence

¹ The Order of Appearances and Order of Cross-Examination will be co-ordinated by Commission Counsel, in consultation with participants. Commission counsel is Mr. Paul Miller, who can be reached prior to the hearing at (604) 687-6789 or by email at pmiller@boughton.ca

of the FortisBC panel of witnesses.

- Counsel for FortisBC will then make an Opening Statement identifying the FortisBC witness panels and outlining the evidence expected from those panels. FortisBC counsel will next call FortisBC's first witness panel. The witness panel will be sworn and will then adopt² the pre-filed evidence that the witness panel members will be speaking to. Following the adoption of the evidence, one of the witnesses may have a short Opening Statement. The Opening Statement should not introduce new evidence and written copies should be provided to participants in advance, at least one business day beforehand.
- Following the Opening Statement of the witness panel, FortisBC's witnesses will be available for cross-examination by Intervenors and Commission Counsel. Commission Counsel will cross-examine last. After cross-examination by Commission Counsel, the Commission Panel will ask any outstanding questions it may have.
- Following the questions of the Commission Panel, FortisBC's counsel may have some clarification questions in re-examination. This is not an opportunity to supplement evidence or provide new evidence.
- Following the conclusion of any re-examination of the last FortisBC witness panel, Intervenors who pre-filed evidence will be called in an order prearranged with Commission Counsel. The Intervenor's witness panel members will be sworn, then asked to adopt the Intervenor's evidence and be allowed to make a short Opening Statement. Once again, the Opening Statement will not introduce new evidence and written copies should be provided to the participants in advance, at least one business day beforehand. Following any Opening Statement, the Intervenor's witness panel becomes available for cross-examination by other parties. In this instance, counsel for FortisBC will cross-examine second from last, followed by Commission Counsel and the Commission Panel. Counsel for the Intervenor may then re-examine for purposes of clarification or explanation.
- Participants may provide written statements as Letters of Comment to the Commission at any time up to the completion of the evidentiary portion of the Hearing, but are encouraged to provide Letters of Comment no later than the commencement of the Hearing.
- Parties who register as Intervenors generally participate actively in the proceeding. Intervenors have the right to cross-examine witnesses, present their own evidence and witnesses, bring motions and make Final Argument. Other than in the case of longer hearings, the Commission usually does not have Intervenors make Opening Statements at the commencement of an Oral Public Hearing. Rather, Intervenors who have filed evidence may make a short Opening Statement that introduces the Intervenor's witness panel and outlines the position of the Intervenor. It should not go over the written evidence that the Intervenor filed earlier and should not introduce new evidence. Intervenor evidence is to be filed in advance of the Oral Public Hearing according to the timetable approved by the Commission Panel.
- A participant, who is not actively involved in the proceeding, will be permitted to make an oral presentation at the Hearing providing it can be reasonably accommodated within the schedule for the Hearing. The Commission Panel will determine how much time will be allotted for the presentations. Typically this is up to 10 minutes for each presentation, unless leave is obtained from the Chair for a longer presentation. The Panel Chair may adjust the length of time for each presentation.

² Adoption of evidence means that you confirm under oath that you have read the evidence you filed and that you adopt it as your own. This process does not enable you to repeat the evidence. The Commission will issue a Pre-filed Exhibit List of the pre-filed evidence that will constitute the start of the public record at the commencement of the hearing.

- If participants or members of the general public wish to make an oral statement they should contact Commission Counsel before the hearing commences.
- The sequence of the Final Written Argument on the Applications will be FortisBC followed by Intervenors followed by reply by FortisBC. The schedule of Final Argument will be determined by the Commission Panel during the Hearing.

DEFINITIONS

Applicants

There is one applicant before the Commission: FortisBC which has applied for a CPCN for the Naramata Substation Project.

It is up to the Applicant to make its case to the Commission Panel based on all the evidence presented at the Hearing. The Applicant has the choice of how to present its case, what witnesses it wishes to call and the order of presentation of its evidence. An Applicant's witness panels normally follow each other.

Application

There is one application before the Commission. The application is for the construction of a substation located in the Naramata area, and the associated construction of transmission lines in the area.

The application has been made pursuant to Sections 45 and 46 of the *Utilities Commission Act, RSBC 1996, c. 473*.

Commission Counsel

Commission Counsel advises the Commission Panel on legal matters, including the conduct of the Hearing. Commission Counsel can also cross-examine the witnesses of FortisBC and Intervenors in order to obtain evidence needed for the Commission Panel to arrive at a decision. Commission Counsel usually questions witnesses after all other parties have finished their cross-examination. Commission Counsel does not play an adversarial role and does not oppose or support either Applicant or any Intervenor. Commission Counsel is also responsible for any issues related to scheduling of witness panels and the order of cross-examination. Commission Counsel is available to assist Participants who have questions related to the Hearing process.

Commission Panel

The Commission Panel hearing the Application consists of Commissioner Len Kelsey, who is Chair of the Panel and Commissioner Liisa O'Hara. The Commission Panel will hear all the evidence and sometime after the close of proceedings (which occurs after the Applicants reply argument is filed) will issue a decision on whether or not to approve the Application. During the hearing of the evidence, the Commission Panel may ask questions of the Applicants, the Intervenors and others presenting evidence. The Chair will ensure a fair process and an efficient Hearing. During the Hearing, the Chair may make procedural orders and may limit cross-examination and the duration of presentations.

Commission Staff

The Commission Panel has the assistance of engineers, economists, and accountants who advise Commission Panel members on technical matters. Commission staff are also available to assist participants who have technical questions regarding the hearing process.

Court Reporters

The Commission has contracted with Allwest Reporting Ltd. to make verbatim transcripts of the oral evidence at the public hearing. Active Intervenors in the Hearing must request and are entitled to receive one hard copy and an electronic copy of the day's proceeding later, during the following week, at no cost. Electronic copies will be available by disk, e-mail or downloading from the Internet.

Cross-examination

Cross-examination is the questioning of another party's witness. The Applicants and Intervenors have the opportunity to question the other parties' witnesses. Parties who support the testimony of a witness or a witness panel should not expect to cross-examine that witness or witness panel.

Evidence

Evidence may be in written or oral form. It provides the factual basis for the Commission Panel's decision. The evidence includes the pre-filed evidence from the Applicant and Intervenors, responses to Information Requests, documents filed at the Hearing, and the oral testimony of witnesses. Participants may sometimes file rebuttal evidence in response to the evidence of another participant. Oral evidence is usually given under oath. New written evidence can only be filed at the Hearing with leave of the Chair. Any Intervenor who has filed evidence is expected to appear at the Hearing to adopt the filed evidence.

Pre-Registered Interested Parties who wish to make a statement can do so at the Hearing. Statements may be time limited depending on the available time and number of interested parties wishing to make statements. Alternatively, individuals can submit written statements as Letters of Comment, which will form part of the "E" class of Exhibits at the Hearing. Individuals making such statements at the Hearing or submitting Letters of Comment are not normally required to do so under oath or undergo cross-examination.

Examination-in-Chief

This is the first questioning of a witness by the lawyer or representative who called the witness to testify. Since the evidence will have been pre-filed in these proceedings, the Commission generally limits examination-in-chief to the adoption of the written evidence and the correction of any errors in the written evidence.

Exhibit List

The Exhibit List is a listing of all the documents that have been filed in the proceeding. Documents are to be filed pursuant to the Commission's Document Filing Protocols. The Exhibits and the Document Filing Protocols are available in the Resource Materials area.

Final Argument

Final Argument is made at the end of the evidentiary part of the Hearing (after all witnesses have testified and all the undertakings have been completed). It is a summary of a party's position on the Applications, based on the evidence presented. New evidence cannot be introduced in Final Argument.

Hearing Officer

The Hearing Officer is in charge of all physical arrangements for a hearing. He or she receives and records all exhibits, gives the oath to witnesses and generally contributes to the efficient functioning of the Hearing. Mr. Hal Bemister of Allwest Reporting Ltd. will be the Hearing Officer for the Hearing.

Intervenors

Intervenors are parties to the proceeding who have been granted Intervenor status. Individual Intervenors or groups of Intervenors with like interests are often represented by their own Council. Under certain conditions participant funding for this representation is made available. They have the right to cross-examine witnesses, present their own witnesses, bring motions, and make Final Argument. Intervenors should only cross-examine parties who are adverse in interest to them. In a large hearing, Intervenors who have similar interests to other Intervenors may adopt the views of those with whom they share similar interests.

Opening Statements

Opening Statements fall into three categories. The **first** is the Opening Statement of the Panel Chair which outlines the nature of the proceedings and addresses certain procedural matters. The **second** is an Opening statement made by a participant or its representative immediately prior to that participant calling its evidence. It outlines the position of the participant on the matters that are to be decided by the Commission and generally identifies the witness panels or witnesses that the participant intends to call. The **third** category is the Opening Statement of a witness panel or a witness. It is a short statement of the position of the witness or witness panel. A witness panel or witness may choose not to make an opening Statement. The Commission Panel expects participants to circulate copies of their Opening Statements at least one business day before the witness panel or witness is called.

Re-Examination

Re-examination provides a limited opportunity for the party calling a witness or witness panel to have the witness clarify or explain matters that have arisen during cross-examination. It is not for the purpose of supplementing evidence or providing new evidence.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I do if I cannot attend the Hearing?

If you are unable to be present, you will not be called on for cross-examination, unless you have made other arrangements with Commission Counsel. If you wish to be active in the Hearing but cannot attend, you should advise Commission Counsel.

What should I do if I only have questions for one witness panel and don't want to be there for the whole Hearing?

It is not known in advance how long each witness panel will take so it is difficult to predict when each new witness panel will start. Commission Counsel will attempt to accommodate the scheduling of your cross-examination time, but you should be aware that the timing of witness panels is often a fluid matter once a hearing starts.

Is this Hearing like a trial where the witnesses testify and go through all of their evidence before Intervenor can ask questions?

No. Written “direct” evidence will already have been submitted to the Commission before the Hearing. This helps to streamline the oral phase of the Hearing. Neither the Applicants nor Intervenor go through their written evidence again on the witness stand, except to make any necessary corrections to their pre-filed evidence. When a witness is called to testify at the Hearing, the witness adopts the pre-filed evidence under oath. The written evidence then has the weight of sworn evidence. Once the witness takes the stand and adopts his or her evidence with any necessary corrections, and following any opening statement from the witness or witness panel, the next step is to allow Intervenor to cross-examine in the case of each Applicant’s witness or witness panel and the other Intervenor and each Applicant’s counsel to cross-examine in the case of an Intervenor’s witness or witness panel. Commission Counsel may then cross-examine, followed by questions from the Commission Panel. Re-examination by the party calling the witness or witness panel then takes place.

Can someone else ask questions on my behalf?

Yes. Your representative can ask questions on your behalf but others cannot. However, it is permissible for Intervenor to work together on questions and to have one Intervenor ask questions that are of interest to a number of Intervenor. It doesn’t matter which Intervenor asks the question because the questions and answers become part of the evidentiary record regardless of who asks them.

Can I cross-examine someone who hasn’t filed evidence?

The purpose of cross-examination is to test the evidence that is on the record. Anyone who has not filed evidence is not normally subject to cross-examination. A party can request that the Commission subpoena a witness but the party must make a motion and satisfy the Commission that the subpoena is appropriate.

What should I do when I disagree with one of the answers I receive when I am cross-examining?

Since the witness and the person cross-examining are adverse in their interests (i.e. the cross-examiner is opposed to the position of the witness) such disagreement is to be expected. However, it is not appropriate to argue with a witness during cross-examination or to give your opinion to the Commission Panel on the answers you are receiving, unless you are seeking to establish that the answers are not responsive to your questions. Your interpretation of the answers of the witness panel and your opinion on them should be saved for the Final Argument phase of the Hearing.

What is the difference between cross-examination and argument?

The purpose of cross-examination is to test the evidence of the witnesses who are testifying. This means the witnesses can be asked questions on their evidence and be challenged on its strength and veracity. Argument comes at the end of the Hearing. The purpose of Argument is to present your views and opinions on the evidence to the Commission Panel after the Panel has heard all of the evidence. Therefore, your personal views, opinions and interpretation of filed evidence should be saved for the Argument phase of the Hearing.

I filed written evidence. Do I have to take the witness stand?

If you have filed written evidence, you are expected to adopt that evidence under oath. If you do not adopt your evidence under oath, it will remain on the record unless the Chair grants a motion for it to be struck. However, you should be aware that unsworn evidence has less weight than sworn evidence. There may or may not be parties who wish to cross-examine you on your evidence. If someone asks to cross-examine you, you must be prepared to attend the Hearing and submit to cross-examination on your evidence. If you decline to attend for cross-examination when a request has been made to cross-examine you, your evidence can be struck from the record or the Commission Panel may choose to attach little or no weight to your evidence.

Interested Parties and other participants who make a statement of their views on the Applications at the Hearing or submit written Letters of Comment are not normally required to do so under oath or undergo cross-examination.

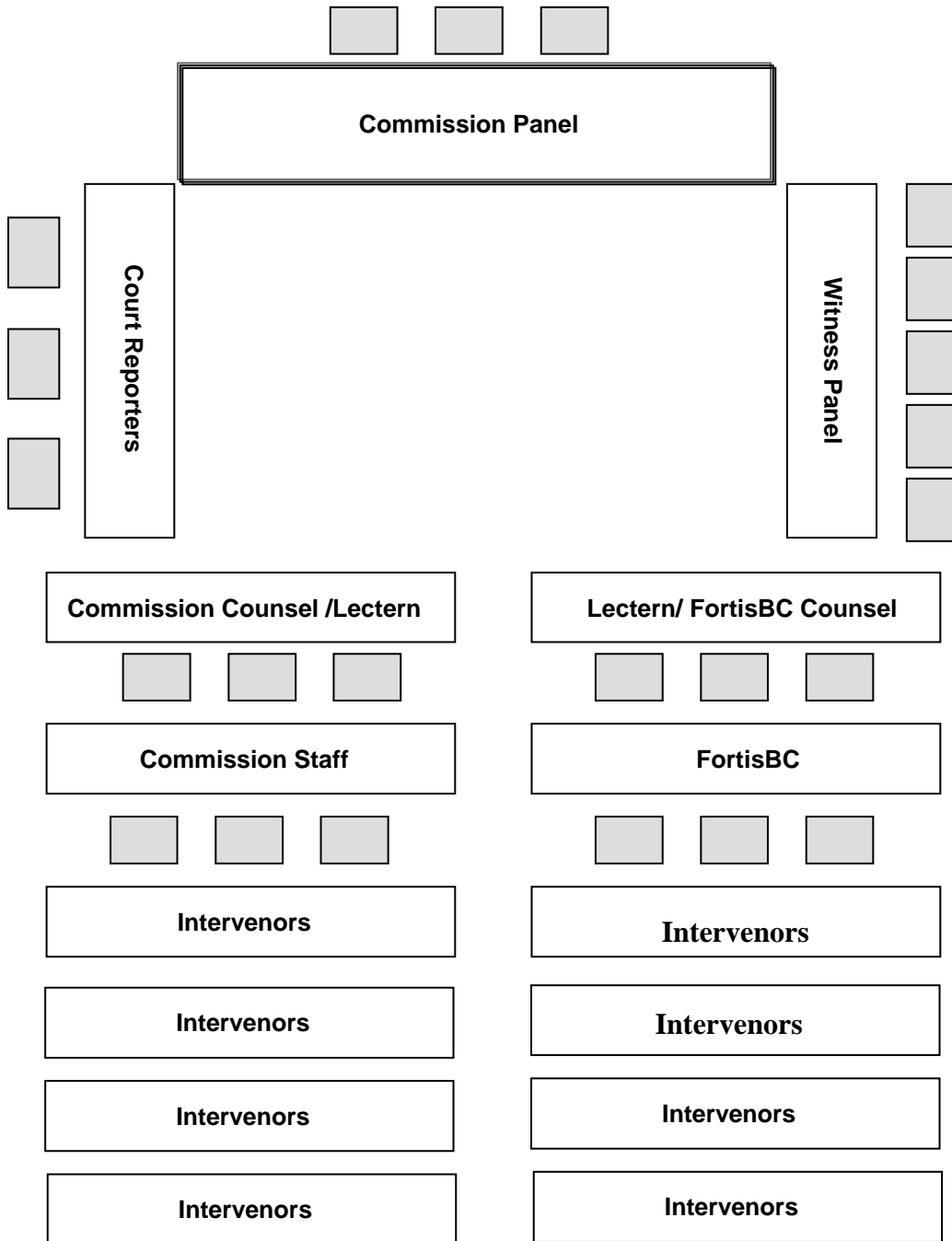
Yours truly,

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt

cc: Mr. David Bennett
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & General Counsel
Regulatory Affairs Department
FortisBC Inc.
Interested Parties (*FBC-Naramata-IP*)

HEARING ROOM SEATING CONFIGURATION



Notes:

Intervenors will cross-examine from the lectern by the Commission Counsel table.