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March 23, 2015

Via Email
Original via Mail

British Columbia Utilities Commission 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 900 Howe Street Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Attention: Ms. Erica M. Hamilton, Commission Secretary

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Re: FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI or the Company)

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for Approval of the Lower Mainland Intermediate Pressure (IP) System Upgrade (LMIPSU) Projects (the Projects)

**FEI Submission on Further Process** 

In its letter dated March 18, 2015 (Exhibit A-6), the British Columbia Utilities Commission (the Commission) requested comments on three options it is considering for further process as a result of an evidentiary update that FEI expects to file in late April 2015:

- Proceed to a second round of IRs on all matters except those related to the route or certain segments of the route. A Procedural Conference to determine further process would be scheduled following FEI's filing of the evidentiary update;
- Proceed to a second round of IRs on the full Application. Once FEI has filed the evidentiary update, the need for further process will be considered by establishing a Procedural Conference or through a request for submissions from the parties; or
- 3. Suspend the proceeding until FEI files the evidentiary update. A Procedural Conference would be scheduled once an evidentiary update has been filed.

The Commission requested comments from FEI by March 24, 2015.

In response, FEI proposes an approach that is a modified version of option 3 above. Specifically, rather than "suspending the proceeding" without setting a firm regulatory timetable for further process, FEI proposes that the Commission establish a regulatory timetable for the second round of Information Requests (IR), followed by written submissions on further process. The second round of IRs should be to obtain further information on

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responses provided in the first round of IRs and on the evidentiary update which will be filed in April 2015. FEI recognizes that the Commission contemplated a procedural conference to determine further process; however, the Company believes that the requirements for further process may change as a result of its evidentiary update and can be effectively addressed through the proposed written submissions. FEI further proposes the following dates for Commission consideration:

## **Proposed Regulatory Timetable**

ACTION	DATE (2015)
FEI Filing of Evidentiary Update	Thursday April 30
Commission Information Request No. 2	Tuesday, May 12
Intervener Information Request No. 2	Wednesday, May 19
FEI Response to Information Requests No. 2	Thursday, June 11
Written Submissions (from all parties) on Further Process	Thursday, June 18
FEI Reply Submission on Further Process	Monday, June 22

FEI now anticipates it will be filing its evidentiary update in April, which represents a onemonth delay from what it had originally anticipated to be late March. The evidentiary update delay is driven by the Company's desire to have full public consultation with businesses and residents along the Lougheed Highway alignment route option. Further, FEI has requested its engineering consultants to prepare revised class 3 capital cost estimates for both Projects as well as to undertake further review of its Fraser IP Project alignment and seismic upgrade scope.

As detailed in the Application, the Projects are needed for the safe and reliable operation of the Company's Metro IP system. Therefore, the Company believes that the proposed approach and timetable ensure that the regulatory review of the Projects is continuing without undue delay and provide an efficient regulatory process for the Commission and the interveners to review the Application based on additional and updated information on the Projects, while still allowing FEI to meet its construction schedules.

If further information is required, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

Original signed by: Ilva Bevacqua

Diane Roy

cc (email only): Registered Parties