

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER** G-168-08

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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: A.A. Rhodes, Commissioner
A.W.K. Anderson, Commissioner November 12, 2008

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 19, 2007 FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (the "Commission") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") pursuant to Sections 45 and 46 of the Utilities Commission Act for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") Project (the "Project") (the "Application"); and
- B. The Project consists of replacing FortisBC's existing meters with AMI-enabled meters and installing AMI throughout FortisBC's service territory; and
- C. FortisBC estimated that the Project would cost \$31.3 million and would result in reduced operating costs and enhanced customer service, largely due to the remote meter reading capability of the AMI-enabled meters; and
- D. The Project was scheduled to commence in 2008 and to be completed by the end of 2010; and
- E. On January 3, 2008 the Commission issued Order G-1-08 which established a Written Public Hearing process and Regulatory Timetable for the regulatory review of the Application; and

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- F. On March 25, 2008 the Commission postponed the Regulatory Timetable to allow FortisBC to amend the Application to include the additional functional enhancements of Home Area Network ("HAN") capability to allow for in-home display units at some future date and Validation, Estimation and Editing ("VEE") and hourly reading capability to the Meter Data Management Repository to the original AMI capability (the "Amended Application"); and
- G. On March 28, 2008 FortisBC filed the Amended Application. The Amended Application added \$6.0 million to the previously estimated cost of \$31.3 million for a total estimated cost of \$37.3 million; and
- H. The Written Hearing Process was complete on June 27, 2008; and
- I. The Commission Panel has reviewed the Application, the Amended Application and the evidence and submissions of the parties.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders that the Application and the Amended Application for a CPCN for the AMI Project are denied at this time for reasons which will follow this Order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 12th day of November 2008.

BY ORDER

Original signed by

A.A. Rhodes
Commissioner