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June 21st 2017

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3

Attention: Mr. Patrick Wruck, Commission Secretary and Manager, Regulatory Support

Dear Mr. Wruck:

Re: FortisBC Inc. Application for Community Solar Pilot Project

I wish to submit the following Information Requests pursuant to this proceeding:

Ref – Application page 10 lines 17-24: "…and Fortis Energy Inc., when it was still Terasen, this application is somewhat akin to that that Terasen, as it then was, made when it was starting to engage in biomethane services. And so, like community solar, it's another means for Terasen, as it then was, to put forward a product that was in the category it's engaged in, for gas, for us electricity, but in a new way."

Question 1: During the Procedural Hearing, Ludmilla Herbst made the above reference to the Fortis Energy, Inc. biomethane project. Please describe your understanding of who provides the investment for building equipment for methane production and feeding the digesters: is it Fortis Energy, Inc. or commercial or agricultural businesses that generate the biomethane?

Ref – Application, p.ES-1 lines 22-25: "The second option, referred to as FortisBC Solar Offset, allows customers to specify a certain percentage of consumption each billing period that will be served from the Program."
Application, p.14 lines 4-8: "If the FortisBC Solar Offset option is offered in the future, usage is variable and may cause a mismatch of output to consumption. Were this to occur such that there is insufficient output to satisfy the expected percentages of consumption, the individual FortisBC Solar Offset customers would have their allocations reduced such that they will receive the same percentage of the available output as if no shortage existed."

Question 2: Given that solar PV production will be lowest during the winter when customer electricity consumption will be highest, would you agree that "insufficient output to satisfy the expected percentages of consumption" would be very likely during winter months?

Question 3: In the event of "insufficient output to satisfy the expected percentages of consumption," leading to reduced allocations to participating customers without warning, does FBC expect those customers to accept that variability without concern or confusion?

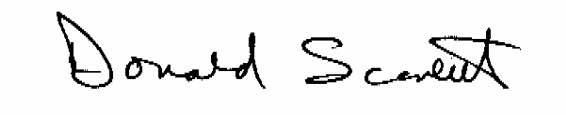
Question 4: What is the potential increase in energy output of solar panels that can be achieved by changing the tilt of the panels according to seasonal changes in solar elevation?

Question 5: Do the mountings of the solar panels in the CSPP permit changes in tilt to optimize solar PV generation according to seasonal changes in solar elevation?

Question 6: How much of the estimated $961,000 capital cost of the CSPP will be financed by FBC, for which the Company receives a 5.97% rate of return?

Question 7: What is FBC's average cost of self-generated and purchased energy in the most recent year of record?

Question 8: What is the average price of FBC's energy sales (total income from energy sales divided by the total cost of energy purchases) in the most recent year of record?



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