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Tuesday April 10th

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street
Box 250 Vancouver, B.C.
6Z 2N3

Attention: Patrick Wruck, Commission Secretary

RE: FortisBC Inc. 2017 Cost of Service Analysis and Rate Design Application

We write in response to FortisBC's request to have their deadline to answer some 1,200 Information Requests extended to Tuesday May 8th, stating that under the circumstances we think the company's request is reasonable and that we support it.

That said and having now read all the Information Requests presented to FortisBC by the Commission and other Interveners, the Kaslo Seniors Community Association Branch #81 does not believe that it can simultaneously read all FortisBC IR#1 responses, absorb and digest them, while at the same time preparing to present our own evidence in this hearing. We also believe that it is premature to ask the interveners to provide their evidence before it is agreed which issues still need further discussion after the first round of IR responses.

We also continue to have a concern that citizens served by FortisBC Inc as electrical customers, especially residential customers, are not being given a chance to fully express their point of view to the Commission, particularly given FortisBC's proposal to increase the amount of revenue collected through the fixed charge from 45% to 55%, which will have a huge impact on low income and low end users of electricity. There are clearly an emerging kaleidoscope of issues within the residential rate class alone: appropriateness of COSA methodology/allocation of costs, electric heat customers/high end rates, low income/low end user rates, to name just three prominent issues for us as Seniors.

Sometimes you need to know what the right questions to ask are before you can offer an opinion on them, and it is very clear to us that, in terms of the residential class, until we know the number and range of electricity use by electric heat customers a solution addressing their needs cannot be adequately addressed. Likewise re-setting the Basic Charge without fully understanding the impact on low income customers does not seem appropriate either.

For all of the above reasons the Kaslo Seniors Community Association Branch #81 asks for a reconsideration of the order of presenting intervener evidence before holding a further procedural discussion. In fact, with the greatest of respect, we find it inappropriate to be asked to present evidence only nine days after FortisBC issues their responses to all the IRs when FortisBC was previously given sixteen days, and has now asked for 26, to respond to our information requests, in a procedural situation where it is as yet unclear which questions will still have to be addressed after the first round of IR responses.

We therefore ask for equal treatment with FortisBC in terms of procedural fairness, which in our opinion includes having the procedural submissions and decision on further process made before we submit our intervener evidence.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
Andy Shadrack
for Kaslo Seniors Community Association Branch #81