



July 20, 2020

INFORMATION RELEASE – BCUC Approves FortisBC Energy Inc. Clean Growth Innovation Fund

VANCOUVER – On June 22, 2020, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) issued its decision on FortisBC’s application for a Clean Growth Innovation Fund (Fund) for its two utilities; FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) and FortisBC Inc. (FBC), per Orders [G-165-20](#) and [G-166-20](#), as part of the utilities’ Multi-Year Rate Plan application. The establishment of a Clean Growth Innovation Fund is a new and different approach aimed at responding to BC’s Clean Energy Objectives while providing the utility with some flexibility. The BCUC approved the proposed Fund for FEI but denied the Fund for FBC.

The BCUC found there was a demonstrated need to accelerate FEI’s innovation activities to meet the climate policy targets for renewable gas outlined in the Province’s CleanBC Plan, and approved the Fund, which will result in a \$0.40/month charge to FEI ratepayers. According to FortisBC, the Funds would be used to address perceived gaps in FortisBC’s current innovation activities.

The BCUC denied FortisBC’s proposed Fund for FBC, as the BCUC did not find a demonstrated need to pursue innovation projects that would provide FBC’s ratepayers with benefits not otherwise available to them.

More information about this application can be found [here](#).

Background

FortisBC submitted the Clean Energy Innovation Fund proposal as part of its Multi-Year Rate Plans (MRPs) application to the BCUC. On June 22, 2020, the BCUC approved the application, which will establish the utilities’ rate setting mechanism for the years 2020 through 2024. A BCUC News Release for this decision can be found [here](#).

About the BCUC

The BCUC is a regulatory agency responsible for the oversight of energy utilities and compulsory auto insurance in British Columbia. It is the BCUC’s role to balance the interests of customers with the interests of the businesses it regulates. The BCUC carries out fair and transparent reviews of matters within its jurisdiction and considers public input where public interest is impacted.

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