



# David M. Aaron

January 28, 2013

**BY EMAIL**

BC Utilities Commission  
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

**Attention: Erica Hamilton, Commission Secretary**

Dear Sirs / Mesdames:

**Re: FortisBC Inc. Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project  
~ Project No.3698682**

In accordance with the Commission's letter of January 21, 2013, we address the availability of the CSTS' witnesses, each of whom we seek to qualify as an expert in his or her respective field.

## **1. Martin Blank**

Martin Blank, based out of Columbia University in New York, is only available after March 10, 2013. Due to the fact that he is elderly, he would prefer to testify via skype or, alternatively, by way of some other method of video conference.

## **2. David Carpenter**

David Carpenter is based in New York. Subject to the issue of travel costs, he will be available to make a personal attendance at the Kelowna hearing on any day except for March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> when he will be at an EMF meeting in New York City. Alternatively, he would be available by video conference on any hearing day except for March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **3. Girsh Kumar**

Girsh Kumar is based in India and he has informed us that he will not be able to make a personal attendance at the Kelowna hearing as scheduled. Except for March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, he will be able to attend the hearing via video conference. He informs us that skype is the preferred method of video conferencing.

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#### **4. Donald Maisch**

Donald Maisch is based in Australia. He advises that a long flight to Canada from Australia would put him at extra risk with respect to a health issue for which he is being treated. He has nevertheless indicated his willingness to attend the hearing in person, subject to the issue of travel costs.

The preference is then to have Donald Maisch testify by video conference and, since the hearing will occur during his late night hours, he advises that skype would be the preferred method of video conferencing.

#### **5. Karl Maret**

Karl Maret is based in California. He says that, for health and medical reasons, he will not be able to attend in person in Kelowna in March but could be available by skype on March 8th or 11th.

#### **6. Timothy Schoechle**

Timothy Schoechle is based in Colorado. Subject to the issue of travel costs, he would be available to make a personal attendance at the hearing.

#### **7. Margaret E. Sears**

Margaret Sears is based in Ontario. Subject to the issue of travel costs, she would be available to make a personal attendance at the hearing from March 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> (inclusive). Alternatively, she would be available by video conference on any hearing day except March 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **8. Isaac Jamieson**

Isaac Jamieson is based in the United Kingdom. Subject to the issue of travel costs, he would be available to make a personal attendance at the hearing.

#### **General considerations regarding travel costs**

We seek affirmation from the Commission of the likelihood that PACA funding will ultimately be made available to cover the travel costs associated with the personal attendance of the above-referenced witnesses at the hearing, as applicable.

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## **Scheduling**

To the extent possible, we request that the Commission issue a timetable for the testimony of each witness so as to enable us to schedule our respective experts on specific hearing days. This will significantly reduce our costs incurred in making the witnesses available.

Yours truly,



**DAVID M. AARON**

cc: clients

cc: FortisBC Inc.

cc: Interested parties