

Box 484  
Kaslo, British Columbia

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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

Attention: Patrick Wruck, Commission Secretary

Dear Sir:

Re: FortisBC Inc. Application for Reconsideration and Variance of Order G-199-16 FBC Net Metering Program Tariff Update Decision ~ Phase 2 ~ Project No.3698875

Submission on Further Process:

I am part of a group of six enrollees in the ForticBC net metering program. Six of our group reside in Kaslo and nearby Area D, and one further customer resides in the Slocan Valley. This seventh customer is currently trying to decide whether to go off-grid or enroll in FortisBC's Net Metering program and is specifically concerned about the how Company's proposed policies will aid it in meeting stated climate change objectives.

We wish to raise the following points in response to the Commission's request for submissions on further process.

1. We were originally hoping for a hearing in the Kaslo area, but if that is not practical, we would like to ensure that we have a meaningful way of participating. We are concerned that having individuals participate by several separate audio telephone lines may not be effective. We would like to arrange for members of our group to attend at a local videoconferencing facility, if possible, and we believe that Selkirk College or the Village of Kaslo would likely make their videoconference facilities available. Can the Commission facilitate participation by a videoconference link?
2. We ask the Commission to confirm that members of the public will be entitled to participate, regardless of whether or not they have official intervenor status.

Two of us, Donald Scarlett and Andy Shadrack, became intervenors in the hearing and two further of us, Philip Trotter and Patrick Mallet, wrote further letters of comment, such that of the seven letters of comment, four came from our group. We represented approximately 7% of the enrollees in the program at the time, who had collectively invested in excess of \$156,000 in renewable energy production equipment.

Accordingly, we ask that the Commission confirm that all members of our group can participate regardless of whether or not they have filed for formal intervenor status. The names of the individuals in question are: Donald Scarlett, Andy Shadrack and Gail Bauman, John and Kare Cathro, Patrick Mallet, Philip Trotter and Michelle Poulin, Philip Sarsons and, I believe, Joanna and Chris Temple.

3. We ask that the Commission confirm that we will be able to question the FortisBC representatives present. We have grave concerns about the position being advanced by FortisBC. At no time prior to enrollment in their program or up until their reconsideration application did FortisBC ever raise with us that it believed that it had a right to remove us from the program for producing Net Excess Generation (NEG). To the contrary FortisBC induced us to enter this program with the sole promise that they would pay retail rates for every kWh that our systems transferred to them, and in fact at no time ever mentioned that there was a size limit less than 50 KW and 750 volts of production. We do not believe that a hearing will be meaningful without the opportunity to question the representatives of the applicant.

That said, we wish to reiterate to the Commission that we remain open to participating in determining how the FortisBC net metering program,..."*as it is currently constituted, [can] be tweaked to work to the mutual benefit of both customers and FortisBC, and within the mandate of the BC Utilities Commission.*"

In conclusion we wish to observe that the concept of having customer-generators within the FortisBC service area is a relatively new experience for both the Company and the Commission, and that as such while FortisBC has done a good job of explaining its own concerns and needs, it has not, as yet, done a good job of listening to its own customer-generators concerns and needs, and determining how to incorporate those concerns and needs into its program.

For the FortisBC Net Metering program to work well and effectively environmentally, in the public interest, the program needs to be seen as such by the Company, the enrollees and other customers in general.

All of which is respectfully submitted,  
Andy Shadrack