



January 23, 2018

Sent via email

To: Stakeholders

<b>BCUC REGULATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SERVICE INQUIRY EXHIBIT A-2</b>
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**Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission – An Inquiry into the Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Service – Establishment of regulatory timetable and preliminary scope**

By Order G-10-18 dated January 12, 2018, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) has established an inquiry into the regulation of electric vehicle (EV) charging service (Inquiry).

In 2012, the Commission issued a Report on the Inquiry into the Offering of Products and Services in Alternative Energy Solutions and Other New Initiatives (AES Report)<sup>1</sup> for regulated public utilities who provide products and services outside traditional utility activities. Principles were established in that inquiry in which the Commission would only regulate where necessary, and regulation should not impede competitive markets. The Commission intends to adopt these key principles in this inquiry.

### **Community Input Sessions**

The Commission intends to hold a series of Community Input Sessions in British Columbia to hear comments on the issues raised in the Inquiry. Dates and locations of these Community Input Sessions will be further established by the Commission.

Community Input Sessions are an opportunity for the public to speak directly to the Panel for the Inquiry. The Panel can effectively gather public input for consideration on the matters that are within the scope of this Inquiry. Making a submission at a Community Input Session is equivalent to providing a written submission; however, only oral submissions will be received at the Community Input Sessions.

Members of the public who wish to make written submissions in the form of a Letter of Comment, can do so online at [www.bcuc.com](http://www.bcuc.com).

### **Interveners**

The regulatory timetable and preliminary scope of the Inquiry are attached to Appendices A and B of Order G-19-18, respectively.

Interveners who wish to participate in this Inquiry are to register with the Commission by completing a Request to Intervene Form, available on the Commission's website at <http://www.bcuc.com/forms/request-to->

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<sup>1</sup> In the Matter of FortisBC Energy Inc. Inquiry into the Offering of Products and Services in Alternative Energy Solutions and Other New Initiatives Report dated December 27, 2012.

[intervene.aspx](#) by Friday, February 16, 2018, and in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures at <https://www.ordersdecisions.bcuc.com/bcuc/orders/en/127520/1/document.do>.

Registered interveners may file evidence by Friday, March 2, 2018, based on the preliminary scope of the Inquiry and/or on any other matters that may assist in the effective and efficient review of the Inquiry.

### **Participant Assistance/Cost Award funding**

Participant Assistance/Cost Award funding may be available for those who participate as an active registered intervener in this Inquiry. The deadline to register is included in the attached regulatory timetable. Registered Interveners are expected to actively participate in all aspect of the Inquiry. The Commission may establish a participant funding cap for the Inquiry at a later date. For additional information on how to participate in this Inquiry, please contact Commission Secretary at 604-660-4700 or [commission.secretary@bcuc.com](mailto:commission.secretary@bcuc.com).

### **About the BCUC**

The BCUC is an independent regulatory agency of the Government of British Columbia that is responsible for regulating BC's energy utilities, the Insurance Corporation of BC's compulsory automobile insurance rates, intra-provincial pipelines, and the reliability of the electrical transmission grid. We work hard to ensure British Columbians get value from their utilities with safe, reliable energy services and fair energy and basic auto insurance rates, while ensuring the entities we regulate have the opportunity to earn a fair return on their capital investments.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

Patrick Wruck  
Commission Secretary

LC/dg  
Enclosure



**ORDER NUMBER**  
**G-19-18**

IN THE MATTER OF  
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

British Columbia Utilities Commission  
An Inquiry into the Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Service

**BEFORE:**

D. M. Morton, Commissioner

on January 23, 2018

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. By Order G-10-18 dated January 12, 2018, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) established an inquiry to review the regulation of electric vehicle charging service (Inquiry) pursuant to section 82 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA);
- B. In the covering letter attached to Order G-10-18, the Commission provided a list of potential regulatory issues that may form the scope of the Inquiry;
- C. The Commission considers that establishment of a regulatory timetable for the Inquiry is warranted.

**NOW THEREFORE** pursuant to section 82 of the UCA, the Commission orders as follows:

1. A regulatory timetable is established for the Inquiry, attached as Appendix A to this order.
2. Interveners who wish to participate in this Inquiry are to register with the Commission by completing a Request to Intervene Form, available on the Commission's website at <http://www.bcuc.com/forms/request-to-intervene.aspx> by Friday, February 16, 2018, and in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure at <https://www.ordersdecisions.bcuc.com/bcuc/orders/en/127520/1/document.do>.
3. Registered interveners may file evidence by Friday, March 2, 2018, based on the preliminary scope of the Inquiry and/or on any other matters that may assist in the effective and efficient review of the Inquiry, attached as Appendix B to this order.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2018.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

D. M. Morton  
Commissioner

Attachments

British Columbia Utilities Commission  
Inquiry into the Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Service

**REGULATORY TIMETABLE**

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Action	Date (2018)
Intervener and interested party registration	Friday, February 16
Deadline for registered intervener filing written evidence	Friday, March 2
Further process	To be determined

British Columbia Utilities Commission  
Inquiry into the Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Service

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**PRELIMINARY SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY**

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On January 12, 2018, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) has established an Inquiry into the regulation of electric vehicle (EV) charging service (Inquiry). The rate design and rates for EV charging, including the services provided by EV charging stations, are currently in an early development stage in BC and other entities may emerge over time to provide EV charging service. The Inquiry will explore the potential regulatory issues, including the level of regulation necessary in the EV charging stations market, the rates for EV charging service, and any other matters that should be considered by the Commission.

In order to proceed with the Inquiry, the Commission has identified the following preliminary scope as follows:

**Scope A: Basis for regulation**

1. Do EV charging stations operate in a competitive environment in BC or are they a natural monopoly service?
2. Are the customers of EV charging stations captive or do they have a choice?
3. Should the Commission regulate the services provided by EV charging stations? What are benefits and detriments to such regulation?

**Scope B: Rate design and rate setting**

4. Should the rate design of EV charging stations be established under a public utility's traditional cost of service model or some other model? And within that context, what are the customer pricing options (e.g. energy-based rate vs. time-based rate)?
5. Should the EV charging station service rate be based on a public utility's existing wholesale or commercial retail rate or some other rate?
6. Should public utilities include EV charging stations in their regulated rate base or through a separate non-regulated entity?
7. If public utilities provide EV charging services within their regulated business, is there a risk of cross subsidization from other rate classes to support this new service and if so, is the proposed rate design potentially unduly discriminatory?

**Other matters**

8. Any other matters that may assist in the effective and efficient review of the Inquiry.

# NOTICE OF INQUIRY

## *British Columbia Utilities Commission Inquiry into the Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Service*

On January 12, 2018, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) has established an independent Inquiry into the regulation of electric vehicle (EV) charging service. The services provided by EV charging stations are currently in an early development stage in BC. Other entities may emerge over time to provide EV charging service.

The independent Inquiry will explore the potential regulatory issues, including the level of regulation necessary (if any) in the EV charging stations market, the rates for EV charging service, and any other matters that should be considered by the Commission.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

There are a number of ways to participate in a matter before the Commission:

- **Submit a letter of comment**
- **Register as an interested party**
- **Request intervenor status**

For more information, or to find the forms for any of the options above, please visit our website or contact us at the information below.

[www.bcuc.com/RegisterIndex](http://www.bcuc.com/RegisterIndex)

All submissions received, including letters of comment, are placed on the public record, posted on the Commission's website and provided to the Panel and all participants in the Inquiry.

### NEXT STEPS

**Intervenor registration** - Persons who are directly or sufficiently affected by the Commission's decision or have relevant information or expertise and that wish to actively participate in the Inquiry can request intervenor status by submitting a completed Request to Intervene Form by Friday, February 16, 2018.

### GET MORE INFORMATION

All documents filed on the public record are available on the "Current Proceedings" page of the Commission's website at [www.bcuc.com](http://www.bcuc.com).

If you would like to review the material in hard copy, or if you have any other inquiries, please contact Patrick Wruck, Commission Secretary, at the following contact information.

#### British Columbia Utilities Commission



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