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Proceeding name: BCUC Inquiry into Gasoline and Diesel Prices in BC

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: No

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Comment:

A few items to consider that others may not have pointed out: 1. The first time gasoline hit over \$1.50 per litre, oil was \$140 per barrel. The explanation was that the cost of oil was driving the price up. If that was true, why is gasoline now hovering around \$1.60-\$1.70 a litre but the barrel is under \$60? There doesn't seem to be a relationship of causality as the oil companies claim. 2. The high cost of fuel is now blamed on refinery closures for maintenance or weather. Yet before gas prices took off a few years ago refineries were still being maintained. What is so different that "maintenance" in Louisiana now drives BC gasoline up by \$0.10-\$0.20 a litre for a few days? 3. The high prices previously also assumed that the supply was so limited we were competing with all of the US for fuel. But the US now is producing all of their own fuel and then some, so why are prices to BC still so high? 4. Alberta isn't dotted with refineries, but their gas prices are substantially lower. I can't believe we pay more for gasoline because it costs \$0.50 per litre or more to transport it to Vancouver via the pipeline. 5. From the perspective of profit margins, unless I'm mistaken the major oil companies are all vertically integrated. They drill for oil, extract it from the ground, own the shipping lines and pipelines to transport crude to the refineries, refine it and then ship via their own assets to Canada, in our case BC. So who is making huge profits? 6. Why is gasoline at the native station in Lytton \$1.391 a litre (the cheapest in BC) when they are nowhere near a pipeline for cheap access to supply? Who is the other \$0.25-0.35 per litre going to?