



August 12, 2019

Attention: BCUC Commission Secretary

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Commission Secretary:

**Re: Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry
Intervener Information Requests on Written Evidence**

Attached please find information requests from the Canadian Geothermal Energy Association to the First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC).

Should you have any questions with regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Zach Harmer, MPP
Policy Director



Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry

Information Request to: FNMPC

Reference: Exhibit C3-3 Submission to the BCUC Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry

Topic: New Zealand Regulations

Preamble: CanGEA requests the party's view on how integrating Indigenous Nations' values into existing legislation, with respect to Indigenous Utilities, could facilitate increased development of Indigenous-owned utilities.

Quote: Exhibit C3-3 Submission to the BCUC Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry, Indigenous Infrastructure/Utility Examples – New Zealand, pg. 7

“The Maori Trust officers informed MPC that existing New Zealand regulations apply to all their electricity generation investments.”

Excerpt from Exhibit C7-2 CanGEA's Submission to the BCUC Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry, 5.4.1 - NZ Geothermal Energy Regulatory Regime, pg. 39

“Another feature, which ties into the Māori concept of Kaitiakitanga, is that geothermal resources are not “owned” in NZ, but rather regional authorities or Māori trusts are the managers of geothermal resources (stewards of their natural environment) and therefore must give consent, via the [Resources Management Act], for any geothermal [or renewable energy] developments. This requirement has led to the high level of Māori involvement in NZ's geothermal energy sector.”

Excerpt from Exhibit C7-2 CanGEA's Submission to the BCUC Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry 5.5 – Conclusion, pg. 39

“The NZ Māori trust geothermal utility case studies serve as useful examples as to how Indigenous groups and communities can benefit from the ownership or partial ownership of geothermal utilities. The evolution of NZ's RMA is also demonstrative of how prudent government action can resolve regulatory issues that hinder development. The inclusion of Māori values in NZ's resource management laws has led to several successful geothermal utility Māori trust and government partnerships, which in turn has led to increased self-sufficiency, economic stimulus, jobs and other opportunities for the trusts and their members.”

Request:

- (a) Does the FNMPC have any comments on whether the inclusion of Indigenous Nations' values into legislation in the interim, such as the *Utilities Commission Act*, could help promote the development of further Indigenous-owned utilities?