

Date Submitted: September 30, 2019

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:

In my view, there is a huge difference between retail gasoline prices between Washington State and Metro Vancouver. I am concerned that BC consumers are forced to pay for gasoline based on the discounted world price of crude oil just like we pay the same price that China pays for Okanagan cherries. When the expanded TMPL is up and running, I am afraid that we will have to pay even more for gasoline.

Letter of comment:

Your Final Report finding that an expanded TMPL will not necessarily increase the supply of refined products and/or crude oil to BC because the expansion's purpose is to transport bitumen primarily for export only is rather alarming. On the other hand, many others claim that the expansion will provide more refined products and/or crude oil supply to BC thereby leading to lower prices and less price volatility. However, to the best of my knowledge, there is no commitment on the part of oil industry, shippers, refiners, governments and the regulator(s) that the expanded or existing TMPL will guarantee an uninterrupted domestic supply which is so vital to the health of the BC economy. In my view, the most pressing issue facing both BC consumers and industry is the lack of such a guarantee. Unless addressed, the BC economy will remain under threat.

Accordingly, I reiterate my earlier suggestion that the Panel consider a recommendation that the capacity of the existing TMPL be reconfigured (monitored and re-adjusted when necessary) to ensure an uninterrupted supply of domestic refined products and crude oil to BC. This may require an expansion of storage, transportation and other infrastructure along, or near the end of, the pipe.

It is also my view that the retail gasoline and diesel market is in need of regulation to moderate prices and price volatility.

I purchased gas at Costco Bellingham on Thursday, September 26th @ retail \$2.699/US gallon or \$0.714/liter. **Converted to Canadian dollars, my cost (using 0.755 exchange and a 2.5% credit card charge) was \$0.969 US/litre.** On the same day, I bought 2 litres of gas @\$1.549 Cdn/litre at a Delta Shell station.

My total savings amounted to @ \$0.585 Cdn/litre. Although Costco discounts its prices by at least \$0.05 Cdn/liter, **BC consumers, especially in Metro Vancouver, still pay a premium of \$0.50 Cdn/litre over Washington State.** Why has the price differential increased since August 31 even if refiners have already switched to lower-cost winter blend and high-summer demand is over?