February 4, 2020 Ref: 109282

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

Attention: Mr. Patrick Wruck, Commission Secretary and Manager, Regulatory Support

Re: FortisBC Energy Inc. Application for Acceptance of Biomethane Purchase Agreements between FortisBC Energy Inc. and Tidal Energy Marketing Inc.

Dear Mr. Wruck:

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (the Ministry) is pleased to provide this letter of comment.

In December 2018, the Government of British Columbia released CleanBC, the Province's strategy to reduce climate pollution and create more jobs and economic opportunities for people, businesses and communities. The plan was developed as a pathway to achieve the Province's legislated climate targets of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40 percent by the year 2030.

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) is a clean alternative to fossil-based fuel that utilizes agricultural resources and waste, both of which are key pathways under CleanBC to achieve GHG reductions and decarbonize BC's energy systems. FortisBC's RNG Program has been highly successful. However, with only two agricultural facilities supplying RNG into the B.C. energy market, demand exceeds supply, and the Program has been curtailed. The Panel will note that the Province has previously indicated its support for the City of Vancouver – FortisBC biogas agreement on February 27, 2019.

The Province understands that in order to achieve the GHG reduction targets of the Province and other entities (e.g., municipalities and transit agencies), natural gas utilities require innovative approaches and significant flexibility. As such, we are supportive of the ability of the utilities to undertake a broad range of activities, actions and investments to reduce the GHG emissions resulting from the natural gas sector in British Columbia. Allowing utilities

…/2

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Assistant Deputy Minister

Electricity and Alternative Energy Division

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9314, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9N1

Location: 3rd Floor
1810 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC

to undertake a broad range of activities allows for more flexibility in making progress towards reducing GHG emissions.

Yours sincerely,

Les MacLaren
Assistant Deputy Minister