

March 5, 2020

**VIA E-FILING**

Patrick Wruck  
Commission Secretary  
BC Utilities Commission  
6th Floor 900 Howe Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3



Reply to: Leigha Worth  
ED@bcpiac.org  
Ph: 604-687-3034  
Our File: 7310.132

Dear Mr. Wruck,

**Re: FortisBC Energy Inc. Revelstoke Propane Portfolio Cost Amalgamation  
Application ~ Project No. 1599033  
BCOAPO Information Requests No. 1 to Canadian Biomass Energy Research  
Limited (CBER)**

We represent the BC Old Age Pensioners' Organization, Active Support Against Poverty, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC, Disability Alliance BC, and Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, known collectively in regulatory processes as "BCOAPO et al." ("BCOAPO").

Enclosed please find the BCOAPO's Information Requests No. 1 to CBER on Intervener Evidence with respect to the above-noted matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,  
**BC PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE**

*Original on file signed by:*

Leigha Worth  
Executive Director | General Counsel

Encl.

**REQUESTOR NAME:** BCOAPO *et al.*  
**INFORMATION REQUEST ROUND NO:** #1  
**TO:** Canadian Biomass Energy Research Limited (CBER)  
**DATE:** March 05, 2020  
**APPLICATION NAME:** Revelstoke Propane Portfolio Cost Amalgamation Application

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**1.0 Reference: Exhibit C1-4, page 2, Table 1**

- 1.1 Please confirm that the appliance efficiencies exceeding 100% in the referenced table (i.e., for heat pumps) could alternatively be called coefficients of performance (COP). If unable to so confirm, please explain.
- 1.2 Please indicate whether the maximum appliance efficiencies of 100% in the referenced table (i.e., for RCEC district heat and for electric baseboard or furnace) are attainable efficiencies or unattainable theoretical upper bounds.
- 1.3 Please explain how the entries in the column labelled “Current” were determined.
- 1.4 Is it merely a coincidence that for 6 of the 9 rows in the referenced table, the “Average Cost per GJ of heat” equals the “Current”?
- 1.5 For the “Cordwood” row in the referenced table, are the minimum and maximum prices over a period of time or are they current and contemporaneous?
- 1.6 For the “Pellets” row in the referenced table, are the minimum and maximum prices over a period of time or are they current and contemporaneous?
- 1.7 How many local vendors of “Pellets” were surveyed to determine the prices shown in the referenced table?
- 1.8 Please explain how footnote 4 to the referenced table applies to row 6, “Propane (Fortis BC).”
- 1.9 In CBER’s view, does the fact that some of the prices in the referenced table appear to be current, while others appear to be historical and over varying periods affect the robustness of the data or its interpretation in the referenced table?

**2.0 Reference: Exhibit C1-4, page 4, paragraph 10**

The referenced paragraph states:

*According to the BC government’s Community Energy and Emission Inventory, more than 37% of heating fuel was provided by wood, with additional 9% by electricity. Many households have two types of heating, a primary and a secondary source, such as*

*electric baseboards with a wood stove as a secondary source, or a propane furnace with electric baseboards in selected rooms, or a propane furnace with a wood stove in only one room of the dwelling. These households have the ability to partly switch between the two sources of heat and do so, especially during fall and spring when the need for heat is temporary.*

- 2.1 Does CBER have any information as to the number of Revelstoke households or the percentage of Revelstoke households that currently have fuel-switching capability in the sense of being able to switch to propane from their other heating fuel?