

**BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT**  
**R.S.B.C. 1996, CHAPTER 473**

**And**  
**An inquiry into the Regulation of**  
**Electric Vehicle Charging Service**

**Fort St. John, B.C.**  
**March 14, 2018**

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**Community Input Session**

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**BEFORE:**

<b>D. Morton,</b>	<b>Chair/ Panel Chair</b>
<b>A. Fung QC,</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
<b>H. Harowitz,</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>

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**FORT ST. JOHN, B.C.**

**March 14, 2018**

**(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCE AT 6:28 P.M.)**

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3  
4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening. Good evening to  
5 everyone that's listening online, thank you for  
6 joining us tonight.

7 My name is Dave Morton, and I am the Chair  
8 of the panel that's inquiring into the Electric  
9 Vehicle Charging Service, and with me is Anna Fung, on  
10 my right, and Howard Harowitz, on my left.

11 We're going to start off the evening with a  
12 presentation from Patrick Wruck, PC staff, and also  
13 from Josh. And after that we will open up the mike to  
14 anyone who has any comments.

15 So please go ahead, Patrick.

16 **(PRESENTATION GIVEN BY PATRICK WRUCK)**

17 **(PRESENTATION GIVEN BY JOSH O'NEAL)**

18 **(PRESENTATION GIVEN BY PATRICK WRUCK)**

19 **Proceeding Time 6:40 p.m. T02**

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Patrick, and thank you,  
21 Josh, also for that presentation.

22 This is the part of the evening when we  
23 turn it over to the audience. If anyone has any  
24 comments, if there's an electric owner that would like  
25 to share their experiences or someone that has some  
26 thoughts or opinions. And please come up to the mike

1           so the people listening online can hear.

2       **PRESENTATION BY MR. CHRISTENSEN:**

3       MR. CHRISTENSEN:       My name is Bruce Christensen, C-H-R-  
4           I-S-T-E-N-S-E-N, and I'm here as a councillor for the  
5           City of Fort St John, but more as an interested  
6           individual for the City of Ft. St. John. And I want  
7           to thank you for the presentation, and I apologize  
8           that there aren't hordes of people behind me here to  
9           be here.

10      THE CHAIRPERSON:       That's okay.

11      MR. CHRISTENSEN:       Interested in the presentations  
12           already in as much as the peak demand issue. That is  
13           huge. We had a presentation in this very room about a  
14           week ago about a company out of Dawson Creek wanting  
15           to install solar panels and how you could sell power  
16           back and forth, flip back and forth, I think it's  
17           called a smart switch or something. And so, I would  
18           expect it would be something similar with these  
19           electric -- with the EV, and how that works.

20                   Your question, and maybe it is a question  
21           to those of us presenting, should it be regulated? I  
22           think it needs to be regulated. I don't have any  
23           answers as to how it should be regulated. You refer  
24           to subsidies, subsidies are always a dicey thing. And  
25           who is getting the actual subsidy, that's something  
26           that definitely needs to be concerned with.

1 I was asked earlier how many electric cars  
2 in Ft. St. John. I have a friend that has one and I  
3 think the City has one, I'm not sure of that. It's  
4 definitely is a thing that's coming.

5 One of the comments, I'll call it a  
6 comment, was about the demand for power and at present  
7 are we creating enough power? I would presume what  
8 the word that -- is you extend that question out or  
9 after Site C is completed. Maybe I'll ask a question  
10 back to -- and maybe this is not your place to say,  
11 has there been -- how would I put it here? Kind of an  
12 estimate of say in five year's time or ten year's time  
13 how many electric vehicles is going to be on the road?  
14 And you talk about peak demand. I would expect at  
15 present you must know what the peak demand is. Is it  
16 six o'clock at night when moms and dads are cooking  
17 supper or when the laundry gets done and so forth.  
18 And if that is the case then, and we talk about  
19 subsidizing or charging the suppliers, will they get a  
20 credit at the times when the demand is not at peak?  
21 If that makes sense. So, that's kind of a -- once  
22 again I thank you for inviting me up here and I thank  
23 you for the presentation here in Ft. St. John tonight.

24 And once again I apologize that there  
25 aren't many more people here.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: No problem. Since we have a couple

1 of minutes I'm happy to share my own thoughts on your  
2 questions.

3 I think you're right, the challenge is that  
4 to add demand only in the non-peak -- only during non-  
5 peak hours. And I think at this point the electric  
6 vehicle adoption, well the number of vehicles on the  
7 road we have -- we were hoping that we'll get some  
8 information in evidence. But from what we have looked  
9 at it's a relatively low number, in the few percent if  
10 that. So, my guess would be it's probably difficult,  
11 would be difficult to measure any impact on energy  
12 demand for that many vehicles.

13 But if the adoption picks up, as some  
14 people predict and some people say that, you know, the  
15 number of electric vehicles sold is in the maybe 10  
16 percent or 5 percent or something like that. But over  
17 a number of years and the number of electric vehicle  
18 around will increase and then that will be a  
19 challenge. And the challenge will be how to ensure  
20 that the electric vehicle demand can be managed.

21 Right now, a lot of people plug their cars  
22 in overnight, so it -- they're effecting both the peak  
23 and the overnight valley. But again, the number of  
24 vehicles that there are out there, as I understand it  
25 -- I don't know if it has even been measured.

26 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I think -- thank you for that. I

1 think too that the costs are becoming more palatable.  
2 I mean for so long electric vehicle as -- it just  
3 didn't make sense. You know, to go to electric  
4 because the extra cost in the amount that you were  
5 saving and then when you also -- when you factor in  
6 the fact that, like our son lives in Edmonton, well  
7 I'd have to stop twice to charge it before I got to  
8 Edmonton, right, and there's time involved and  
9 everything else.

10 And then there was some talk earlier about  
11 truck becoming electric, and so on and so forth.  
12 That's where it's going to go, let's be honest, that's  
13 where it's going to go. So, as we become more  
14 concerned with the environment and I'm not a totally  
15 green person but I think we can be much better  
16 stewards of the land than what we have been.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: I wonder if I could ask you a  
18 question, please?

19 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Sure.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: If you wanted to purchase an electric  
21 vehicle could you purchase one in Ft. St. John or  
22 Dawson Creek or somewhere in this area?

23 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Well, yes you could. GM has electric  
24 vehicles, I think it's the Volt or whatever.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: So, you could go to a dealer and  
26 order it. Do your dealers have charging stations, do

1           you know?

2 MR. CHRISTENSEN:       No. We have one a City Hall, I think  
3 public works has one. I'm not sure if there's another  
4 spot in Ft. St. John or not. I apologize I should  
5 have known that before I came. But they -- and when  
6 you talk to people, when you go to different -- like  
7 I'm a Rotarian and different functions, people are --  
8 it's on their mind. They're thinking of it, and now  
9 that the price are becoming more, as I said palatable,  
10 it's being considered.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON:       Thank you. Does anybody else have  
12 anything?

13 MS. FUNG:           I do have a question, in fact a couple of  
14 questions, Mr. Christensen. And first of all, thank  
15 you very much for coming tonight, we really do  
16 appreciate it.

17 MR. CHRISTENSEN:       This is almost like being at karaoke  
18 here.

19 MS. FUNG:           However, I just want to probe a little bit,  
20 you start off your presentation by saying that this  
21 entire field needs to be regulated. So, I'm just  
22 wondering why you say that and what aspects of the,  
23 you know, charging service do you feel needs to be  
24 regulated?

25 MR. CHRISTENSEN:       I think if you don't have regulation,  
26 I would be nervous about a particular entity taking it

1 over. And once again the prices becoming prohibitive  
2 to run that electric vehicle.

3 And I'm sorry your second part of the  
4 question was?

5 MS. FUNG: Yeah, I'm just wondering whether -- because  
6 primarily the BC Utilities Commission is an economic  
7 regulator. So, do you see our role as one that make  
8 sure that, as you say, prices are not -- or that  
9 customers are not being gouged, for instance, by  
10 whoever is providing the service. Or so you see that  
11 safety needs to be regulated in terms of the, you  
12 know, how these machines operate?

13 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I think, I would expect that part of  
14 the regulation would include the monitoring of a  
15 particular type of vehicle and how efficient it is,  
16 because, you know, it's like right now if you have a  
17 three-quarter ton, or one ton truck with a big engine  
18 you pay extra for that. Because it costs more to run  
19 it, it uses more gas, diesel, whatever the case may  
20 be.

21 I would expect that in the -- I guess it's  
22 maybe not a form of a luxury tax, I hate to use luxury  
23 tax because sometime in a case up in Ft. St. John or  
24 the north, larger vehicles are required because  
25 they're used for work. But there are certainly  
26 historically, up until day, there are some vehicles,

1 especially the vehicles that are part-time electric, I  
2 will use that term, not very efficient. Not very  
3 efficient when they run on gas and not ever efficient  
4 when they run on electricity. So I would hope that  
5 that is something -- and maybe that's too deep for the  
6 Utility Commission to suggest to manufactures, to  
7 suppliers or whatever. But I think it's all part of  
8 the big pictures that needs to be done.

9 Did I answer your question?

10 MS. FUNG: Thank you. Yes.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Christensen. We  
12 appreciate your time, thank you.

13 So, I think on that note, since we have no  
14 other speakers lined up, we'll say good night and have  
15 a safe drive home. Thank you.

16 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 6:51 P.M.)

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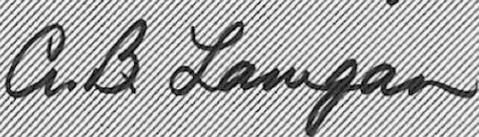
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING  
is a true and accurate transcript  
of the proceedings herein, to the  
best of my skill and ability.

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A.B. Lanigan, Court Reporter

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March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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