



September 30, 2020

## **INFORMATION RELEASE – BCUC Extends Fuel Price Ad-Hoc Data Collection Project**

VANCOUVER – Today, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) announced a three-month extension to its expanded fuel price data collection project for select cities in British Columbia (BC). As Administrator of BC's *Fuel Price Transparency Act* (FPT Act), the BCUC will continue to collect and publish data on the [Special Projects](#) page of its [GasPricesBC.ca](#) website until December 31, 2020.

The extension will provide additional data to the BCUC so that it can conduct a more thorough analysis and determine next steps, as appropriate. In addition, since the launch of this project, a number of new developments have occurred with respect to the FPT Act. In August 2020, the BC government issued [Special Direction to Section 4 of the FPT Act](#), directing the BCUC to conduct a retail data collection pilot (Retail Pilot). The Retail Pilot requires fuel retail dealers to submit data to the BCUC beginning in November 2020. The extension to this program will enable the BCUC to continue to share information with the public about retail fuel prices, while it works to implement the FPT Act Retail Pilot and collect data submissions from retail dealers. This will provide a richer dataset for this program, which is intended to enhance the final report.

The public is invited to participate in this project by submitting their feedback, including questions or observations, on the newly available data through [GasPricesBC.ca](#) or sending an email to [info@gaspricesbc.ca](mailto:info@gaspricesbc.ca).

More information about this project is available [here](#).

### **Background**

On March 9, 2020, the BC government announced the BCUC as the Administrator of the [Fuel Price Transparency Act](#) (FPT Act). The BC government's announcement is posted [here](#). As Administrator of the FPT Act, the BCUC is responsible for collecting and publishing information about gasoline and diesel fuel activities in BC, in an effort to promote competitiveness, and public confidence in the competitiveness of the fuel market. The BCUC does not regulate fuel prices.

On April 7, 2020, the BCUC launched [GasPricesBC.ca](#). The website was developed as a first step in providing the public with more information about how gasoline and diesel prices are set in BC. Through a series of dashboards, [GasPricesBC.ca](#) displays publicly available data, which visitors can customize to view information based on geography or price components.

On June 15, 2020, the BCUC [announced](#) that it would be expanding its fuel price data collecting and reporting for select cities in BC on an ad-hoc basis. The gathering and sharing of additional data is the result of public feedback, as the BCUC heard from many individuals seeking more specific retail pricing data. As part of this project, fuel pricing data has been collected from Oil Price Information Services (OPIS) since June for the areas the BCUC heard about most, including; Powell River, Revelstoke, Port Alberni, and Squamish. Data from Nanaimo and Langley is also being collected and used for comparative purposes.

On August 14, 2020, the BC government established FPT Regulations per [Order in Council \(OIC\) No. 474](#) requiring those in the wholesale industry to submit regular reports to the BCUC, and [Special Direction to Section](#)

[4 of the FPT Act](#), requiring retail dealers to submit fuel data to the BCUC in a retail data collection pilot. Per OIC No. 474 and the Special Direction, wholesale and retail reporting to the BCUC will begin in November 2020.

#### **About the BCUC**

The BCUC is a regulatory agency responsible for oversight of energy utilities and compulsory auto insurance in British Columbia. It is the BCUC's role to balance the interests of customers with the interests of the businesses it regulates. The BCUC carries out fair and transparent reviews of matters within its jurisdiction and considers public input where public interest is impacted.

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