



November 4, 2020

## **INFORMATION RELEASE – Update Regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Service in BC**

Vancouver – Today, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) shared a staff [update](#) regarding the electric vehicle (EV) charging service market in BC. The update is based on Natural Resources Canada’s (NRCan) [Electric Charging and Alternative Fuelling Stations Locator](#) data. The staff update compares market information between November 2018 and August 2020. The data appears to support the findings and recommendations from Phase One of the BCUC’s [Inquiry](#) into the regulation of EV charging service in BC.

In its EV Charging Service Inquiry [Phase One Report](#), issued on November 26, 2018, the BCUC concluded that the EV charging market for entities that are not otherwise public utilities, including landlords and strata corporations, did not exhibit monopolistic characteristics. It was recommended that EV charging service providers be granted an exemption from regulation. As a result, the BC government granted the exemption per [Ministerial Order No. M104](#) on March 18, 2019.

According to [NRCan data](#), the number of EV charging stations in BC has grown from 738 to 896 stations since November 2018, representing a 21% increase over that period. In addition, the ownership profile for direct current fast charging (DCFC) stations appears to have shifted since late 2018/early 2019, with BC Hydro’s share of the DCFC market decreasing from 65% to 45% between early 2019 and August 2020, while Tesla and other non-utility providers have increased their combined market share from 30% to 44% over the same period. This development further supports the BCUC’s finding that the EV charging services market does not exhibit monopolistic characteristics.

The BCUC staff update of the EV charging station market is available [here](#), and more information about Phase One of the BCUC’s EV Charging Services Inquiry can be found [here](#).

### **Background**

On January 12, 2018, the BCUC established an inquiry to review the regulation of electric vehicle charging service in British Columbia. The Inquiry aimed to explore the potential regulatory issues, including the level of regulation necessary in the EV charging service market and the rates for EV charging service.

The BCUC determined a phased approach would be an appropriate way forward for the Inquiry, with the first phase of the inquiry addressing the following issues:

- Does a person who does not expressly require customers to pay for EV charging services but instead recovers the cost from other services, meet the definition of a “public utility”?
- Should there be any regulation of persons that provide charging services if they are not already a regulated utility such as FortisBC or BC Hydro?

The BCUC issued its [Phase One Report](#) on November 26, 2018, some of the findings included:

- The public EV charging market, including landlords and strata corporations, does not exhibit monopoly characteristics.
- Economic regulation of any aspect of the EV market is not required to protect consumers from potential abuse of monopoly power. This means there is no need to regulate prices and terms of service.

The BCUC also recommended in its report that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources issue an exemption with respect to BCUC's regulation of EV Charging Services but retain oversight on safety. The BC government granted the exemption per [Ministerial Order No. M104](#) on March 18, 2019.

On June 24, 2019, the BCUC completed the second and final phase of its EV Charging Service inquiry and [issued a report](#) outlining its findings to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. In Phase Two of its EV Charging Service Inquiry, the Inquiry Panel focused on the role of "non-exempt public utilities" (e.g. BC Hydro and FortisBC Inc.) in the EV charging service market, how these entities might participate in this market and how, if at all, their participation should be regulated.

### **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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