



July 27, 2021

INFORMATION RELEASE – BCUC Issues Reasons for Decision on City of Richmond’s Request to Relocate FortisBC Gas Mains

VANCOUVER – On July 23, 2021, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) issued its [reasons for decision](#) on the City of Richmond’s (City) [application](#) requesting Fortis Energy Inc. (FEI) to relocate its operating gas mains in three locations in accordance with terms requested by the City. The BCUC issued its decision on the application on May 31, 2021, with reasons to follow, as outlined in Order [G-170-21](#) in order to allow work to be completed in a timely manner. The reasons for decision discuss the BCUC’s jurisdiction on this matter, as well as its rationale for the determinations made in its decision.

In its application, the City describes its project to install piping for new sewer upgrades in multiple locations in the Burkeville area of Richmond. In three of these locations, the City’s project conflicts with FEI’s existing gas mains. There is no operating agreement between FEI and the City, to govern the terms under which FEI uses municipal lands. When a municipality and utility do not agree on terms, the BCUC may specify terms on which the public utility may use municipal lands.

Following written submissions from both parties, the BCUC held a streamlined review process to make a determination on the application. In its decision, the BCUC directed FEI to complete the offset projects by June 30, 2021, as specified in the design drawings prepared by FEI and approved by the City, and under terms specified by the BCUC. The City was directed to pay for the costs of the offset projects.

More information about the proceeding can be found on the [proceeding page](#).

Background

On April 1, 2021, the City of Richmond (City) applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) regarding the need for FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) to relocate operating gas mains in three locations where conflicts occur with the City of Richmond’s new storm sewer system. The City requested the BCUC direct FEI to complete the relocation project by June 30, 2021, and on the terms set out by the City. The City’s application cited Section 36 of *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), which states that the BCUC may specify the terms in which a public utility may use infrastructure within a municipality. Section 32 of the UCA provides for the BCUC to specify the manner and terms of use of municipal thoroughfares when there is a disagreement between municipalities and public utilities.

About the BCUC

The BCUC is an independent regulatory body, responsible for regulating BC’s energy utilities, as well as its compulsory automobile insurance rates, and intra-provincial pipeline rates. The BCUC is also responsible for administering BC’s *Fuel Price Transparency Act*. 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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