

FortisBC Long Term Gas Resource Plan (“LTGRP”) Indigenous Community Engagement Sessions – Lower Mainland

Session 1 Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022

Session 2 Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Format: Virtual meeting via Teams

Note: These notes should be reviewed in conjunction with the presentation slides that were provided to attendees prior to the meeting and with the session notes. Slide reference numbers will follow Session 2 format since a few additional slides were added to provide additional background information. Attendee questions have been numbered for ease of reference in future communications.

FortisBC Presenters:

- Ken Ross – Manager, Integrated Resource Planning and DSM Reporting
- Breannen Dick – Community and Indigenous Relations Manager, Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley
- Carol Suhan – Manager, Community Programs, Conservation and Energy Management

These presenters or any FortisBC representatives can be contacted by emailing irp@fortisbc.com.

Community Attendees:

Individuals representing the following communities attended one or both of these sessions:

- Sq'ewá:lxw Skawahlook First Nation
- Shxwhá:y Village
- k'ík'w'ə́łəm Kwikwetlem First Nation
- Seabird Island Band
- x'w'məθk'əy'əm - Musqueam Indian Band
- Seyem Qwantlen

Overview of the Agenda:

1. Welcome, introductions and session overview
2. Overview of the Resource Planning Process
3. Energy Planning Landscape in BC and FEI's Clean Growth Pathway
4. Break
5. FEI Conservation and Energy Management Programs for Indigenous Communities
6. 2022 Long Term Gas Resource Plan Overview
7. Ongoing resource planning and engagement
8. Wrap-up and next steps

1. Welcome and Introductions

Based on the response to our email request for topics of interest as well as the summary of feedback from previous sessions, FEI provided information on the following:

- How to ensure key principles of the UN Declaration and Indigenous energy priorities are considered within the 2022 LTGRP filing and developing future Long Term Resource Plans through ongoing engagement
- How the resource plan relates to specific FortisBC projects
- Ensure cost and affordability are key priorities in long range planning
- Interest in expanding natural gas service to some communities
- Energy efficiency partnerships
- Economic growth and community development
- Renewable energy supply options such as:
 - Renewable natural gas (RNG)
 - Hydrogen
 - Electric vehicles
 - Solar
- Feedback on ongoing engagement

For additional topics of discussion refer to the presentation slides 1 to 15.

2. Overview of the Resource Planning Process

FortisBC provided background on the Long Term Resource Planning process. This Resource Plan will look at the company's resource needs over the next twenty years for securing safe, reliable, lower carbon energy. The plan is an important component in overall utility planning as we transition to the Clean Growth Pathway. Key challenges are the need to decarbonize and affordability.

The plan forecasts customer demand and supply while taking into consideration demand-side management (energy efficiency and conservation), the displacement of higher carbon fuels with natural gas (for example in providing transportation energy for medium and heavy duty vehicles and marine transportation), the incorporation of renewable and low carbon gas supply as well as system upgrades for this transition including upgrades for system resiliency and sustainment. The regulated planning process is transparent and open to any person or interested party's participation. Long term resource planning at FortisBC is an ongoing process, including ongoing consultation and engagement. The 2022 Resource Plan is due for submission to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) by March 31, 2022. LTGRPs have historically been submitted in a three to five year cycle. However, due to the dynamic shifts in BC's energy landscape, it is anticipated that the next resource plan will be underway soon after submission of the 2022 plan. The plan does not seek approval for individual projects within the plan as each project

seeks approval as individual submissions, complete with specific business case and engagement strategy. For additional topics of discussion refer to the presentation slides 16 to 22.

Attendee Questions (in bold) and FortisBC Responses (not bolded):

2.1 Attendee: When will the plan be made available for review by the Nation?

FortisBC: The Resource Plan is expected to be submitted to the BCUC on March 31, 2022 at which time it will be made publicly available. The submission formally launches the review process of the plan in its entirety. The BCUC will initiate a review proceeding. Anyone can register as an interested party in order to receive updates on the review process, or an intervener in order to actively participate in the review process. All documents will be posted on the BCUC as part of the public record. All comments are taken into consideration by the BCUC and will inform FEI's ongoing resource planning process .

2.2 Attendee: What is the average wait time for submission to approval?

FortisBC: It varies but usually it takes about a year for the regulatory process. Other proceedings and project applications before the Commission can impact the duration of the review process. Because the energy landscape is changing so rapidly, we may need to submit another plan sooner than four years. This engagement process is ongoing as we start capturing feedback for the next plan and we appreciate your feedback on how to continuously improve the engagement process.

2.3 Attendee: Will Nations be notified when we file the plan?

FortisBC: We will notify all attendees of these sessions when the plan is submitted and the link for where the plan can be accessed.

2.4 Attendee: The 20 year plan to bring on supply affordably, especially low carbon sources, is a large task. How can you do this?

FortisBC: We understand it will be a challenge for us to find the right balance to achieve these goals. Renewable and low carbon gas will allow us to leverage the infrastructure that we have in place although new infrastructure will need to be put in place in terms of system planning and resiliency. Although conventional gas is relatively cheap, carbon taxes will also result in a price increase over time. Although there is uncertainty in terms of costs and location of resources, we are working through these renewable supply questions.

2.5 Attendee: Where is the 15% project allocation to Indigenous groups? Why has it taken five years for FortisBC's undertaking of these goals? Furthermore, FortisBC's website highlights the work being done to foster relationships with Indigenous communities, however there seems to be less real action on the ground.

For example, a community we work with has not yet had gas even though it is an urban community close to other gas customers. How can we support you in the prioritization of this essential service of gas distribution to these communities where many residents are low income? In addition to the difficulties with connection, there will be significant costs to convert their existing equipment once connection is made. These comments reflect examples of projects that would demonstrate and provide assurance of FortisBC's commitment to the PAR training principles.

FortisBC: Thank you for your comments. We will be taking back all of your comments for consideration moving forward. To answer the part of your question regarding training and procurement. As part of the PAR certification and evaluative process, it has been identified that FortisBC has some continued work to do to advance these initiatives corporately. We are also working on advancements and partnership opportunities when it comes to our procurement processes. As part of PAR we are looking at a key areas of business development including how we support procurement and employment opportunities for Indigenous communities and peoples.

In terms of employee Indigenous Awareness training, it is now required for all 2,600 employees to complete the training although it takes time and coordination for them all to be enrolled and completed by the end of 2022. The Indigenous Awareness Training is a base level training but we also offer a more advanced level (2.0) for employees who work directly with Indigenous peoples and communities as part of their everyday job duties.

FortisBC response (note that in considering question 2.5 after the session, the following additional comments are offered):

On the topic of connecting communities to the gas system, we will ensure the feedback provided during the session is integrated into the development of our resource plan. In most cases, the challenge associated with connecting off-grid communities to our gas system is around the cost to extend infrastructure to the new service area when compared to the amount of energy load this new service area will add to the system. There is a mains extension (MX) test and formula which FortisBC can run internally to evaluate the cost of extending service to a new community.

We can reach out to the right department at FortisBC to run an MX test for the community identified during the session to understand what, if any, cost or technical barriers exist to extending service to the community, and get back to you on the results of this and potential next steps. We have heard this similar comment from Indigenous and rural communities across our service territory through these resource planning workshops, as there is desire to connect communities to the gas system to ensure reliable and affordable energy service. In the background, we are also working on a strategy to address this challenge and identify potential funding mechanisms to support gas service extension even if our current MX test identifies these potential projects as cost-prohibitive. We will ensure this feedback is integrated and considered in this strategy and would be happy to continue the discussion in future weeks on this.

Attendee: In addition to comments above, FortisBC needs to recognize that the word “Reconciliation” cannot be used, since there is still a long way to go before we first get to “Truth”. These cultural sensitivities need to be considered and consultants should be educating your team members on the appropriate way to address your initiatives with Indigenous people. What we see is corporate language, but action on the ground could be better to ensure higher receptivity to FortisBC initiatives.

FortisBC: We welcome this feedback as we look for ways to continuously improve the level of engagement in the LTGRP process and other initiatives and welcome your feedback throughout this session.

3. Energy Planning Landscape in BC

FortisBC provided background on BC’s energy landscape. It is important to note that natural gas supplies more energy than electricity. As such, it will be challenging to displace this magnitude of energy through electrification. In 2018, FortisBC released their [Clean Growth Pathway to 2050](#) that charts a pathway for FortisBC to contribute to achieving the provincial climate action goal of 80 per cent GHG emissions reduction by 2050. In addition, FortisBC commissioned international consultant, Guidehouse, to develop a report [“Pathways for British Columbia to achieve its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals”](#) to help us understand different lower carbon pathways. According to the Guidehouse report, a diversified pathway requires \$100 billion less investment than an electrification approach when considering all costs to British Columbia.

On October 25, 2021, CleanBC released their [Roadmap to 2030](#). At this time, FortisBC is still determining how these new targets will impact long term energy planning. However, the goals of the CleanBC Roadmap are already supported by FortisBC’s long term vision of renewables and low carbon gas, energy efficiency and other initiatives. FortisBC will continue to build upon the Diversified Energy Plan, keeping the gas infrastructure in place for affordability and resilience. Please see slides 23-41 in the presentation for additional topics of discussion.

3.1 Attendee: We see there is a project related to technological improvements in metering? What will this do to this workforce as currently there are people reading meters across the province? Will the end-user have to pay for this technology upgrade? There are people in our communities where a \$5 to \$10 per month bill increase will make a difference to their ability to meet their basic budgetary needs. Why is information about this project not shared well in advance of the implementation?

FortisBC: *Note to attendees: Additional information has been provided in this response outside of the meeting discussion.*

Yes, this project will reduce the need for meter readers and this is being addressed as part of the project plan. Currently, we do not know the numbers in terms of workforce impacts in terms of the number of positions this could impact due to how early we are in the project implementation phase. We are still looking into how this will affect our workforce. We will support those whose jobs are affected by this project, in accordance with our employment policies, procedures and Collective Agreements.

This Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project is currently under review with the BCUC. The costs of this project will be recovered across our entire customer base provincially. Generally, customers may expect to initially see project costs reflected in their bills, followed by savings over time once they are in use. We expect to see these savings reflected in rates from as early as 2026.

An update was provided later in the meeting to inform attendees that the application is under review by BCUC and can be found on the BCUC website:

<https://www.bcuc.com/OurWork/ViewProceeding?ApplicationId=889>

Customer benefits to the Advanced Gas Metering Project include:

- Upgrading to advanced gas meters will modernize our gas infrastructure, allowing us to better monitor and manage our system. For example, FortisBC could remotely detect and respond to gas leaks including in the event of an emergency.
- Customers will be able to access daily updates on their gas use.
- FortisBC will no longer need to regularly enter customers' properties to read meters.
- FortisBC will no longer have to shut off gas service during meter exchanges, reducing inconvenience to customers.
- This project is one of the ways we are improving our system resilience following the gas shortage British Columbia experienced in late 2018, when a key supply pipeline north of Prince George ruptured.

More information can be found on FortisBC's website at this link:

https://www.fortisbc.com/about-us/projects-planning/natural-gas-projects-planning/advanced-gas-meters?utm_campaign=advancedmeters&utm_source=collateral&utm_content=advancedgasmeters.

3.2 Attendee: Is FortisBC doing any more capacity building? Is natural gas the bridge fuel? An attendee is looking at renewables opportunities and the information would be useful.

FortisBC: In this case, we interpret bridge fuel as referring to the ability to provide backup or energy storage for renewable energy to sustain peak demand. The answer is yes. Over time we will be bringing on significant renewables both locally and off-system credits. We are very interested in procuring renewables at the local level. Please speak to a FortisBC representative if you have opportunities for projects.

3.3 Attendee: One attendee is already in a pre-feasibility project phase for a renewable gas project. Recently announced legislation has resulted in greater potential opportunities for renewables and the ability to initiate these projects. We would like to see more knowledge transfer between FortisBC and communities about how to partner on these projects.

FortisBC: Agreed. We want to partner where we can to enable these project partnerships. The CleanBC Road Map provides support for initiating partnerships with Indigenous communities on clean energy projects. We also want to continue to explore partnerships through our Low Carbon Innovation Fund with local communities to increase renewable energy in our local energy systems.

3.4 Attendee: Please clarify the upstream and downstream categories displayed on slides 26 and 27.

FortisBC: While these graphs were taken from two different sources, one federal and one provincial, we will contextualize the categories for consistency based on our interpretation:

- **The source for Slide 26** is *Canada Energy Regulator – Canada’s Energy Future 2019 and CanESS (CANSIM)*. The slide demonstrates energy demand by sector in BC. One category refers to “Upstream oil and gas” accounting for 18% of BC’s energy demand. This refers to the energy used to extract and refine products such as natural gas.
- **The source for Slide 27** is the *2019 BC GHG inventory*. The slide demonstrates GHG emission production by sector in BC. One category refers to “oil and gas extraction and mining” that accounts for 20% of BC’s GHG emissions. This category would include the upstream production of oil and gas noted in slide 26 and mining. Another category refers to “downstream industry” accounting for 15% of BC’s GHG emissions. Downstream industry would be related to end users with high loads such as industrial, manufacturing, warehousing, and the timber industry as examples.

3.5 Attendee: Thank you for outlining the difference between the electrification and Diversified Energy Pathway. It helps us understand the scope of the low carbon transition. This background provides more clarity to the BC energy planning discussions and we will consider this information as we have been hearing different pieces from various sources.

FortisBC: We are working with the government, utility partners and BCUC to help provide a provincial 20 year outlook for energy systems that meet the needs of all British Columbians and make sure that a complete record of information is available for consideration. We have had feedback in these LTGRP engagement sessions in which we have been able to connect attendees with contacts at FortisBC for ideas on renewable energy projects or opportunities to work with FortisBC on energy efficiency projects as examples.

3.6 Attendee: I understand we are moving to greener energy. These reports will help us all understand the goals for the province as a whole. The electrification end goal has been explained in sessions I have attended, but it was not made clear what the steps are to get there and how

extreme are the steps required for this change. We need to understand (the province's) current plan and five years out and it is good to have some FortisBC resources available for these discussions.

FortisBC: Presented the discussion slide 41.

- How does the energy landscape in BC impact you?
- What are the challenges and opportunities you face?

FortisBC: These sessions are not the only opportunity to provide us with your feedback. Let us know any time if you have feedback to our longer term goals. The Community Relations team is available to connect with you at any time or email IRP@fortisbc.com

4. Break

5. Indigenous Energy Efficiency Incentive Programs

Carol Suhan, FortisBC provided an overview of FortisBC's energy efficiency incentive programs that have been customized to support the unique requirements of Indigenous communities. One way to deal with affordability is through reducing energy bills to make buildings operate as efficiently as possible. We have spent the last four years designing programs that are more accessible in meeting the needs of Indigenous communities. We collaborate with BC Hydro where we can to create a single point of access for these programs. FortisBC's Indigenous communities programs were presented at a high level. Please contact any FEI representative to be connected with program team for assistance. For additional topics of discussion refer to the presentation slides 44 to 49.

Energy Conservation Assistance Program (ECAP)

Communities are encouraged to employ ECAP first. It is free, there is no need for proof of income needed for households on reserve (although income requirement must be provided for off-reserve applicants). This is an entry-level program, which allows residents to have an energy assessment learn about opportunities to reduce consumption through behaviour changes. They may also qualify for additional upgrades, that will be provided free of charge. This program is a collaboration with BC Hydro.

5.1 Attendee: How can we access ECAP?

FortisBC: The best way to access ECAP is by working with your housing manager to streamline entry into this program.

Indigenous Communities Conservation Program

FortisBC and BC Hydro have worked together to streamline the application process and educate contractors about these offers. This program is stackable with other funding programs such as the

federal NRCan Greener Homes program (Note: requires EnerGuide energy assessment for eligibility) and CleanBC Better Homes. Basically, the community sends us invoices and the FortisBC team will help with the paper work to support and simplify the process. A recent applicant received a \$27,000 rebate. This program is designed to cover 50-90% of the upgrade. *Additional information provided after the meeting is to inform participants that one community was provided more than \$300,000 in rebates to support community-wide home retrofits.*

Indigenous Communities New Home Program

FEI understands that there is a shortage housing and many communities are building new homes. This program is aligned with the BC Energy Step Code for new construction. You will need to hire an energy advisor and a building design offer assists in building a high performance home for greater comfort and reduced operational costs. Most of the costs for energy assessments are covered by the incentive.

We had an example of one project planned to come in at Step Code 2. Through the rebates and design offer, a reconfigured design and upgrades brought up the rating from Step Code 2 to Step Code 5 without any increases to costs. For example, they changed window design, added a shaded porch, improved air tightness and increased insulation levels. These homes are highly energy efficient with energy bills less than half of a reference home. These homes are also more comfortable, utility bills are lower, and we have received very good feedback from folks living in these homes.

Social Housing Retrofit Support Program

This program was designed for apartments and housing societies which are not that common on reserve. However for Indigenous housing societies, Aboriginal Housing Management Association and BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) the SHRSP is helping to make new construction or building renovations more efficient. The program provides energy studies, incentives, and access to building science experts throughout the project.

Community building upgrades

FortisBC offers support for these upgrades with energy evaluation services as the first step. Energy assessments determine what upgrades should and can be done and insight into available rebates.

Our goal is to support your communities as much as we can knowing that your administrative resources are limited. We can also work with your contractors. Our programs are customizable as each region has unique requirements. We have worked with multiple communities across BC on some major renovation and new home projects.

5.2 Attendee confirmed that these programs are much easier to access. They suggest starting with determining ECAP eligibility and then working through the other program offers that may be more complex to access.

5.3 Another attendee commented that these programs are impressive, more accessible, and contributes to affordability. It is heartwarming to see communities receive help to get people into better housing.

FortisBC: Covid has slowed down some of the ability for contractors to be on site for the last two years. There is a lot of planning going on to ramp up the offers. CleanBC is launching another program that you can also access and stack onto FortisBC rebates and program offers. We will work to try to coordinate this funding. This is a great time to do renovations, as there is a lot of funding available for home retrofits currently.

If you have additional questions, please connect with your FortisBC community representative or contact Carol Suhan at carol.suhan@fortisbc.com for further information.

6. 2022 Long Term Gas Resource Plan process overview

In trying to forecast future energy planning, we develop a number of scenarios from low to high levels of gas demand to project a variety of different outcomes twenty years into the future. The upper bound is equivalent to about three times current demand, while the lower bound is equivalent to about half of our current demand. The critical uncertainties added to the models include demand, supply, GHG mitigation requirements and transportation requirements (CNG, LNG). We can still have growth on the system and decarbonize our supply through Demand Side Management's energy efficiency initiatives, renewable and low carbon gas, transportation, and carbon capture and storage. This is a time of transformational change as our customers' energy needs evolve and FortisBC decarbonizes the gas supply. Please see slides 50 to 64 in the presentation for additional topics of discussion.

7. Ongoing resource planning work

The practicalities of procurement of supply and impacts to the system for the transition to renewables and low carbon gas is being actively evaluated at FortisBC. In the short term we may be displacing gas through purchases outside BC. However, we are working on BC-based supply opportunities wherever we reasonably can. The RNG can come on quite seamlessly and hydrogen can be blended at lower percentages. However, in time we will require hydrogen-dedicated pipelines and hydrogen hubs. Although the complete details for this transition will not all be worked out in time for this resource plan submission, we will explain how the gas infrastructure will be used to deliver conventional, renewable and low carbon gas and how this mix is expected to change over the planning horizon. The need for resiliency will be highlighted in the plan in response to 2018 Enbridge Pipeline and recent extreme weather events. The next resource plan after this 2022 LTGRP filing will then be able to examine these details further. Please see slides 65 to 67 in the presentation for additional topics of discussion.

Discussion:

1. How does what we discuss today impact your energy needs?

2. How can we continue to improve our engagement initiatives?

7.1 Attendee: How will the Diversified Energy pathway impact residential customer bills? Will there be additional funding for Indigenous communities for energy efficiency programs to support the higher energy costs?

FortisBC: We are working on a rate impact analysis for the LTGRP, though it isn't yet completed. It will be presented in the plan. There will be increased costs for decarbonizing BC's energy systems. The work that FortisBC has done indicates that a diversified pathway is lower cost over the long term. Ways to mitigate costs include energy efficiency and we are looking at substantially increasing our investments. Energy efficiency is a pillar of the Clean Growth Pathway. New technologies, such as gas heat pumps are being developed that will have higher performance (ie.120 to 140%). Fewer customers and fewer units of energy delivered will also impact costs per customer so it is important to look at all different perspectives when designing BC's energy future. More customers on FEI's system will help lower costs. For example, marine and transportation customers will overall reduce costs per customer as well as maintaining and growing customers in our traditional sectors.

FOR DISCUSSION: FortisBC's ongoing and evolving engagement on resource planning and other initiatives

FortisBC: We want to remind you that you can continue to provide us feedback for this and subsequent resource plans. We would like to hear from you in terms of how we can improve our engagement activities. We note that some of our project work is constrained through the regulatory filing process but we are open to this engagement. In addition, if you prefer one:one contact for discussing your ideas and concerns please contact your Community Relations manager.

We understand there are capacity constraints for your communities to participate, as well as FEI's capacity to individually reach out to your members. But we would like to continue to improve our outreach. Do attendees find this long range planning information useful? Please provide us with ideas for continued collaboration.

7.2 An attendee presented a number of ideas for collaboration that we summarized in the table below. After the meeting, FEI added responses on how they can start to address some of these opportunities discussed.

Idea for collaboration	FEI response (both during and post-meeting)
It would be helpful to break down this information to make it more understandable. Determine the goal of the presentation and what are the needs of the audience.	In terms of resource planning, we will look at how we can simplify the presentation, or offer it in smaller sections, as we start to build the next Long Term Resource Plan.

Idea for collaboration	FEI response (both during and post-meeting)
<p>There is a lot of FEI gas system infrastructure in our communities, and this provides opportunities for career development and employment for our community members.</p>	<p>FEI is looking at ways to work with community members on workforce training and employment opportunities.</p>
<p>Can you get into our schools and help kids access careers in the energy sector?</p>	<p>FEI does work with ISET groups and trades training organizations across the province, but we acknowledge that there is always more ways to support these efforts. We are committed to continuing to support and identify more opportunities to work with Indigenous education programs.</p>
<p>Are you meeting with leaders in terms of offering opportunities to become shareholders and co-owners in project development?</p>	<p>FEI is at a very early stage of looking at how and if equity-type agreements could be developed especially as we explore Clean Energy partnerships.</p>
<p>Are you utilizing community networks that are culturally appropriate to disseminate information to communities? There is a shared responsibility to pass along this information between FEI and communities and communities to one another– ie CP holders.</p>	<p>FEI understands there are opportunities to utilize Indigenous community networks and will continue to explore ways to collaborate on energy savings opportunities and projects.</p>
<p>How do we integrate all of these actions into a Reconciliation process? Reconciliation is a big discussion. We need to give one another a chance to work together as we share opportunities along the road to Reconciliation. Exactly what does Reconciliation mean, as each person may have their own understanding? But we need to start the process.</p>	<p>Reconciliation, as defined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), is establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in this country. By mutually respectful relationships, we mean building long-term relationships that seek to advance the unique interests of all involved. For FortisBC, Reconciliation is an immeasurable but worthy goal that includes awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been done to Indigenous Peoples, atonement for the causes and taking effective action to change behaviour.</p> <p>To achieve this, we are guided by our words and actions using both our Statement of Indigenous Principles, which are aligned with</p>

Idea for collaboration	FEI response (both during and post-meeting)
	<p>the TRC’s Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). Our Reconciliation efforts are about more than business, we whole-heartedly believe Reconciliation is important for all of us as humans.</p> <p>In terms of the process, we work with Indigenous leaders, community members and business partners to identify potential employment, contract and training, and investment opportunities that can advance both their priorities and our own.</p>
<p>A participating Nation has been actively engaged in learning about energy and energy security. They often wonder if FEI spends enough time with communities to understand their energy priorities and needs moving forward. They are keenly interested on energy security and renewables. It would be great for other communities to take advantage of their experience in accessing these opportunities for energy projects. Can FortisBC facilitate this information and knowledge exchange?</p>	<p>FEI will look at ways that we can share these learnings for example case studies or workshops so we can grow our knowledge together as we develop clean energy partnerships. We will also work with government to determine if there are areas of further collaboration.</p>

FortisBC: We recognize we need to further our action towards outreach to Indigenous communities. However is the information too dense? Any ideas to help us exchange this information to your benefit? Energy planning is complex. How can we break these down and simplify for different audiences? How do we design the engagement opportunities to communicate more effectively? Is there a forum that could work for ongoing engagement and discussions? Do you feel comfortable sharing your ideas in a forum or do you prefer to have individual sessions?

7.3 Attendee: Keep things open. We need to learn FortisBC’s perspective. We need to learn from one another and between communities. It’s good to keep things open in forums where there are a number of different communities on the call - that being said, there could be times where we drill down on 1 on 1 conversations where more appropriate. There are different times and topics for different approaches required. FEI should gain an understanding if the content is intended for a broader audience versus more detailed for a specific audience when packaging information.

From an employment perspective, we want to work with you to inform our students and engage them in career development. This information would be useful for our employment and training

centers. We sometimes get an update on how many First Nations people work at certain corporations which helps understanding if more and more of Community members are working at company A and B etc. This helps staff work with community members to know that a company wants to see more of their people working at the company itself. This data is very useful and valuable for the employment and data training centres.

FortisBC: In terms of training opportunities, we are working with BCIT and Thompson Rivers University to augment energy efficiency training as part of construction training. Projects such as mobile high performance building labs is an example of available support. If there is interest in introducing micro-credentials to any of your training programs we have funding support. BCIT wants to do more of this outreach and FEI could enhance these opportunities if there is interest in following up on these opportunities. We are working with housing teams for renovation opportunities but there is additional opportunities for new construction particularly for design support.

7.4 Attendee comment: In terms of project development, we understand there are constraints to how we engage due to the regulatory process. However, we do not always get updated information from the regulator. Is it possible to give us notification when there are application amendments in the regulatory proceeding?

For clarification – in terms of the Eagle Mountain Woodfibre project – the updated information is very complex and sometimes we are provided with outdated documents. It is difficult to sift through what has been specifically amended in the document, which takes time to sift through. Lately, we contacted FEI to get clarification on an amendment. The BCOGC emails are in a chain. However, their emails may have nothing to do with the current process.

FortisBC: We will take this back to the team to look at how we can improve this process and see if there are ways we can help simplify the amendment process to interested parties.

We want to remind attendees that the engagement process will be starting soon for the next plan. We need to clarify the needs and ensure that the communications are appropriate for the group that want to receive information. We acknowledge the complexities of the regulatory process and resource limitations on our side and your side. We especially want to find ways to improve the process to reach as many people as possible when the next plan is under way.

7.5 Attendee: Is there a way the First Nations can purchase shares in FortisBC as an invested partner to gain an equity stake?

FortisBC: We are a subsidiary of Fortis Inc. and these shares are available for purchase on the public trading market. FortisBC believes in building economic partnerships with communities and having conversations early and often to discuss opportunities.

FortisBC: What is your approach to digital engagement and would you find online surveys as a useful tool to provide feedback for resource planning?

7.6 Attendee: Our preference is to be engaged first and early on in the process. Provides the ability to align our timelines and requirements with project implementation. Surveys can be helpful in some circumstances, if they are directed to the right people and if those people had sufficient background information. Generally, we prefer in-person consultation, however, having the information packaged and sent through by FortisBC in advance of BCOGC amendments will enable us to bring projects forward for feedback and assignment within the community.

FortisBC: We can pass these comments along to our project team and try to get information that could assist in simplifying the process. In addition, we can look at these ideas in terms of the regulatory process and notifications for the LTGRP proceeding. Please provide any feedback you have on ways you would like to contribute and provide feedback to our long range planning. This is a continuous improvement process and we understand that there are differences in individual requirements that we need to consider as we go forward.

7.7 Attendee: These sessions are a good start in engaging First Nations communities in BC. A lot of information has been delivered today and we will share this information with our leadership team to distribute further in their community.

7.8 Another attendee appreciated the information provided and will pass the information along to lands and resources managers.

8. Session wrap-up

Thank you for attending and providing feedback during our sessions. Notes will be distributed to participants for their feedback and then posted to the LTGRP section on FortisBC.com. We welcome your comments if we have missed or misinterpreted any of the discussion. You can also send us additional information for consideration.

FEI's LTGRP submission deadline is March 31, 2022. Our FortisBC Electric Long Term Resource Plan is now under regulatory review. BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) was submitted in December, 2021. We encourage all interested attendees to be part of the regulatory process for both the BC Hydro IRP review and the FortisBC LTGRP review. This can be as simple as a letter of comment through to a more formal process to sign up as an intervener. This is a critical time for developing a coordinated and collaborative long term energy system for BC so we encourage everyone to get involved.

Session adjourned.