

# 2026 Long-Term Electric and Gas Resource Plans

## Resource Planning Advisory Groups (RPAGs) Terms of Reference

### 1. BACKGROUND

FortisBC Inc. (FBC) and FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) (FBC and FEI collectively, “FortisBC”) are in a two-year process to develop the 2026 Long-Term Electric and Gas Resource Plans. These plans will present FortisBC’s long-term strategy for meeting the forecast energy requirements of customers with demand-side and supply-side resources to 2050.

Two Resource Planning Advisory Groups (RPAGs) will provide FortisBC with technical advice and support throughout the planning process for both plans: the 2026 Long-Term Electric Resource Plan (LTERP) and the 2026 Long-Term Gas Resource Plan (LTGRP).

This effort is a requirement of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA)<sup>1</sup> and guided by the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) Resource Planning Guidelines and BCUC directives. Upon completion of the planning process, FortisBC will file the Long-Term Resource Plans under section 44.1(2) of the UCA with the BCUC:

- FBC is directed to file its next LTERP no later than December 31, 2026. FEI is directed to file its next LTGRP no later than March 31, 2026.
- The Terms of Reference document is intended to be a mutual agreement between FortisBC and RPAG members. It is considered a ‘living document’ to be used throughout 2026 Long-Term Resource Planning (LTRP) process. Its purpose is to provide both RPAGs with clear guidance for communications, roles and responsibilities, and what members can expect throughout the planning process. FortisBC and RPAG members have a collective and mutual responsibility to follow the Terms of Reference.

### 2. RPAG MEMBERSHIP

In establishing the two RPAGs, FortisBC aims to achieve a balance of interests, perspectives and expertise. Each RPAG will include representatives from a variety of sectors with relevant expertise that is considered critical to the successful development and implementation of the LTERP and the LTGRP.

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<sup>1</sup> Utilities Commission Act, online at: [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96473\\_01#section44.1](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96473_01#section44.1)

RPAG members were selected based on the following considerations:

- They represent a sector or perspective that has a significant interest in one or both plans.
- They have been previously underrepresented in LTRP efforts.
- They possess relevant education, expertise and/or professional experience in key fields relevant to energy resource planning or utility regulation and have individual expertise, interest and experience considered to be key the LTRP process.

One individual per organization is invited to attend RPAG sessions. Organizations have the option to appoint an alternate who could then represent the organization at workshops when the member is unable to attend.

Decisions on RPAG membership will be made by FortisBC. For a list of members for each RPAG, please refer to Appendix A.

The two RPAGs represent one pillar of FortisBC's three-pillar engagement strategy. The other two pillars include (1) engagement with Indigenous communities and (2) engagement with interested parties. Interested parties include (but are not limited to) FortisBC customers, associations, builders, developers, gas suppliers, government agencies, municipalities and other utilities.

### **3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RPAG MEMBERS**

RPAG members are expected to:

- possess an organizational affiliation and approval to participate in the RPAG on the organization's behalf,
- provide expert technical advice and feedback on key topics related to long-term resource planning including but not limited to:
  - resource needs, including in relation to load forecast and resource adequacy
  - supply- and demand-side resource alternatives
  - session regulatory obligations and requirements
  - resource alternatives
  - important issues and trade-offs that need to be considered in resource planning
- participate in all RPAG sessions to the best extent possible,
- come prepared for discussions, which may include reviewing pre-session materials,
- review materials and summary notes when attendance is not possible,
- ensure that any materials shared by FortisBC and/or RPAG members for the purposes of the planning process stay internal to the process,
- focus on topics and issues within the scope of the LTRPs,
- review and comment on the LTRPs as requested,
- ensure that representations to the public are respectful of other RPAG participants and other viewpoints raised in the process, and
- review, are familiar with, and agree to the ToR.

#### *Alternates*

To help foster community, RPAG members may designate alternates to represent them when they are unable to attend a session, or on issues where an alternate has more relevant knowledge or

experience. If an alternate attends a session, it is requested that they be briefed by the member on previous discussions and materials prior to the session. Prior written approval (via email) for alternate attendance from FortisBC is required.

### *Observers*

An RPAG member may bring one observer from their organization to a session if the observer is expected to take over the RPAG member's role or if the RPAG member feels that the session would enhance the observer's understanding of the resource planning process. For example, a member can request that their alternate be given observer status in order that both the member and the alternate attend the same session, in which case the alternate would maintain the role of observer during that session.

Observers may not participate in the session discussions in the interests of ensuring equal and fair representation from the RPAG organizations. FortisBC retains the right, at its own discretion, to limit the attendance of observers at any time if it feels that the participation of other RPAG members is negatively impacted by the attendance of observers. Observers are not eligible for stipends. Prior written approval (via email) for observer attendance from FortisBC is required.

## **4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FORTISBC<sup>2</sup>**

- host and facilitate sessions and lead discussions,
- provide agendas, topics and relevant background material<sup>3</sup>,
- document and circulate session notes,
- document and consider suggestions and input,
- provide planning updates and manage communications,
- circulate electronic surveys as needed,
- review and consider RPAG members' feedback while drafting the LTRPs and, where appropriate, incorporate it,
- post session materials to the FortisBC website ([LTERP](#) & [LTGRP](#)), and
- review and agree to the terms of the ToR.

FortisBC may also take time to provide information to the RPAG on near term initiatives, activities and issues, and will provide an opportunity for feedback on such topics.

It is FortisBC's intention that RPAG members provide valuable insights and feedback that will inform the LTRPs. FortisBC does not intend participation in the RPAG to represent explicit approval or support from individual members with respect to specific initiatives or plans that may be included in the LTRPs. FortisBC recognizes and advises RPAG members that a formal regulatory process follows the submission of the LTRPs to the BCUC, and that interested party positions, including those of RPAG members, on any integrated resource planning issue may be formally conveyed without prejudice during the Regulatory proceeding.

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<sup>2</sup> Includes FortisBC contractors.

<sup>3</sup> The session materials contain proprietary information intended exclusively for members of the RPAGs. FortisBC requests that RPAG members keep this information confidential and not share, distribute, or disclose it outside of the RPAG members without prior consent.

**Attribution** - Comments and opinions expressed during the market potential workshops will not be attributed to individuals in connection with a comment or question if and when reported in regulatory filings.

FortisBC must also adhere to any directives and orders from the BCUC that may be included in the BCUC’s decisions on the previous long-term resource plan or any other submissions or applications that impact the LTRPs.

## 5. DECISION MAKING

The RPAGs are technical advisory groups formed to make recommendations to FortisBC as it develops the 2026 LTERP and LTGRP. For example, FortisBC will seek input from the RPAG on key factors to be considered in demand forecasting and scenario planning, on levels of demand-side resources to plan for and/or on energy supply issues and alternatives. Ultimately, however, all decisions related to each plan will be made by FortisBC. Consensus on recommendations of the RPAGs is not a requirement, but FortisBC and its contractor<sup>4</sup> will attempt to build common understanding and views of the RPAG members. FortisBC will strive to create an environment of trust among RPAG members built on mutual respect, freedom of opinion and equal opportunity to participate.

## 6. STRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

### Sessions

Sessions are expected to take place remotely according to the schedule in Table 1. Subject to change, FortisBC anticipates about five meetings between July 2024 and January 2026.

**Table 1. Session and Tentative Topic Schedule for LTGRP and LTERP.**

No.	LTGRP RPAG	TOPICS (tentative)	No.	LTERP RPAG	TOPICS (subject to change)
1	7/17/24 (Joint mtg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of process</li> <li>Energy planning landscape</li> <li>Integrated nature of gas and electric energy demand</li> <li>Future scenario development</li> </ul>	1	7/17/24 (Joint mtg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of process</li> <li>Energy planning landscape</li> <li>Integrated nature of gas and electric energy demand</li> <li>Future scenario development</li> </ul>
2	11/19/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft scenarios</li> <li>Key drivers</li> <li>Variables for sensitivity analysis</li> <li>Customer forecast</li> <li>IGEH study</li> </ul>	2	12/11/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft scenarios</li> <li>Key drivers</li> <li>Variables for sensitivity analysis</li> <li>IGEH study</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> For the 2026 LTRPs, this refers to Triangle Associates.

No.	LTGRP RPAG	TOPICS (tentative)	No.	LTERP RPAG	TOPICS (subject to change)
3	02/20/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LTGRP Update &amp; Business-As-Usual Demand Forecast</li> <li>• FortisBC Considerations for Renewable Gas Supply</li> <li>• Renewable Supply Alternatives Modelling</li> <li>• Reference Case Demand Forecast &amp; Alternate Scenarios Update</li> <li>• DSM Analysis: Context &amp; Approach</li> <li>• DSM Analysis: Draft Results</li> </ul>	3	04/09/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Load Scenarios Update</li> <li>• Market Price and Rate Forecasts</li> <li>• Supply-side Resource Options</li> <li>• DSM Update</li> <li>• Portfolio Analysis</li> </ul>
4	06/18/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System Planning</li> <li>• Gas Supply</li> <li>• Infrastructure Transition to Renewables and Resiliency</li> </ul>	4	09/24/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSM Planning &amp; Scenarios</li> <li>• Pathways for BC to Achieve its GHG Reduction Goals</li> <li>• System Planning</li> </ul>
5	10/08/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status update on the resource planning process and overview of RPAG feedback</li> <li>• Overview of FEI's planning scenario</li> <li>• Developing the LTGRP Action Plan</li> </ul>	5	01/28/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EV Charging Mitigation</li> <li>• Load-Resource Balance</li> <li>• Portfolio Analysis Results</li> <li>• Transmission &amp; Distribution</li> </ul>

### Session Agendas

FortisBC will be responsible for providing the topics of discussions and can change these at its sole discretion. Agenda topics will also comprise items FortisBC deems required and may also, but are not required to, include suggestions from RPAG members.

### Session Notes

FortisBC will share high-level outcomes of each RPAG session shortly after the session. RPAG members will have a chance to provide input/recommend edits to the Session Notes.

Session summaries will be high-level and will include:

- a list of attendees
- key decisions and takeaways

- questions/issues raised and addressed
- action items/next steps

#### *Communications and materials sharing*

- RPAG members will receive calendar holds via email approximately two months prior to each session.
- RPAG members will receive official invitations approximately two weeks prior to each session.
- Session materials (e.g., pre-read documents) will be made available approximately two or one week prior to each session.
- FortisBC will strive to make the Summary Notes available within three weeks from each session.

In cases where an additional or unforeseen topic arises, such as significant changes in the planning environment impacting previously shared analytical outcomes, FortisBC will strive to promptly coordinate with the RPAG members for an ad hoc meeting to cover the pertinent topics.

#### *Availability of Stipend/Travel funds*

##### **Travel Expenses**

RPAG sessions are currently planned to be remote. However, if an in-person sessions is held, FortisBC will reimburse reasonable expenses up to a limit of CAD \$800 (e.g. travel and lodging) per session for RPAG members from outside the immediate region of the in-person workshop location (for example: outside the Lower Mainland if held in Vancouver or Surrey, outside the Okanagan if held in Kelowna or Penticton) to attend sessions. Expenses above CAD \$800 will be reviewed on a case by case and exception basis. RPAG members will be reimbursed for expenses incurred to attend a session or session once valid receipts are submitted to FortisBC, subject to the considerations above.

##### **Stipend**

Under certain circumstances, FortisBC will support the participation in the RPAG of members from non-profit organizations that are invited by FortisBC and that can reasonably demonstrate the need for capacity funding assistance to participate. The purpose of this assistance is to ensure that organizations that should have a voice on the RPAG, but which do not have resources available to send a representative, can still actively participate. One member per qualifying organization is eligible for the stipend.

Specifically, FortisBC will provide a set amount of \$770/RPAG session to a member of the RPAG who is representing a non-profit organization that is not a government organization, does not have commercial/business membership supporting its activities and where the member is acting in a voluntary capacity (i.e. where the representative is not a paid employee of the organization being represented). The per diem is also available to BC Indigenous organizations that participate in the RPAG activities and demonstrate a need for capacity assistance to aid their participation.

## **Reimbursement**

FortisBC will provide payment in the form of a check or direct deposit. To receive payment, members must send an invoice from their organization via email to FortisBC's Integrated Resource Planning mailbox (see Section 7). The invoice must include the organization's name and logo and a mailing address or bank account information. Stipends will be processed monthly at the end of a session month.

## **7. CONTACT**

The primary contact from FortisBC for both RPAGs is:

**Annu John**

FortisBC Integrated Resource Planning Engagement Specialist

[IRP@fortisbc.com](mailto:IRP@fortisbc.com)

**Integrated Resource Planning Mailbox**

[IRP@fortisbc.com](mailto:IRP@fortisbc.com)

## 8. APPENDIX A:

**Table A1. Long-Term Gas Resource Plan RPAG Members**

No.	Organizations
1	BC Business Council
2	BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council
3	BC Hydro
4	BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre
5	BC Sustainable Energy Association
6	BC Utilities Commission
7	Canadian Biogas Association
8	Clean Energy Association of BC
9	Commercial Energy Consumers Association of BC
10	Community Energy Association
11	Independent Contractors and Business Association
12	Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
13	MoveUp
14	Northwest Gas Association
15	Pacific Northern Gas
16	Pembina Institute
17	Residential Consumer Intervener Association
18	Urban Development Institute

**Table A2. Long-Term Electric Resource Plan RPAG Members**

No.	Organizations
1	Association of Major Power Consumers
2	BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council
3	BC Hydro
4	BC Municipal Electric Utilities
5	BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre
6	BC Sustainable Energy Association
7	BC Utilities Commission
8	Clean Energy Association of BC
9	Columbia Basin Trust
10	Commercial Energy Consumers Association of BC
11	Community Energy Association
12	Independent Contractors and Business Association
13	Industrial Customers Group
14	Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
15	MoveUp
16	Pembina Institute
17	Residential Consumer Intervener Association
18	Urban Development Institute
19	University of British Columbia (UBC) Okanagan