

2022 Long Term Gas Resource Plan (LTGRP) Northern Interior (NI) - May 20, 2021

Green items represent follow-up questions for FortisBC

Black items represent FortisBC responses

1. Attendee: Believes that non-competitive supply in NI should still be cost effective. There has been no expansion or interest to meet the needs of NI communities. Costs are crazy and we need better and timelier follow-up. What are the plans to fill in gaps in NI?
 - a. FortisBC: FortisBC would like to service all customers and communities who would like access to natural gas or renewable gas – including in the NI. However, in some circumstances, the economics of doing this can be challenging. We're always available to have these discussions and strive to provide timely responses.
 - b. Attendee: This is not a new discussion, it's been ongoing for many years. Seems like there is no interest from FortisBC to service their community. Disappointed with the response during recent discussions. The response was generally that FortisBC would look into the request and get back to us in the fall.
 - c. FortisBC: FortisBC will follow-up directly on this and connect with the attendee after the session. As mentioned, FortisBC would like to provide service to all those that are interested but working in a regulated environment poses certain limitations in terms of expanding infrastructure.
2. Attendee: Glad they have the opportunity to join this interesting discussion but had short notice for this meeting. Are some real solutions going to come out of this session or does this only serve FortisBC's needs?
 - a. FortisBC: Our sincere apologies for the late notice, thank you for joining us today on short notice. In terms of the engagement sessions, we try to reach out to as many people as we can and our process is improving. The resource planning team works closely with various departments to ensure invitations get extended to a diverse group of invitees. We also encourage invitees to forward or share the invites with additional people. As such, we have less control when these invites are extended to additional people. Saying that, we appreciate your feedback and will continue ensuring we provide ample lead time for sessions.
 - b. Attendee: Agrees with this comment. Only received notice for the session a few hours in advance. Feels like a checkbox for FortisBC to cross off.
 - c. FortisBC: Again, we apologize for the short notice. The purpose of these engagement sessions is to have a productive dialogue and get your feedback on our resource planning activities. The input you provide today is documented, taken into consideration, and where applicable results in actionable items for our team.
3. Attendee: You talk about reducing your customers GHG by 30% by 2030. What is your company's plan to reduce it owns Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and the GHG emissions of the product you sell?
 - a. FortisBC: FortisBC has been actively looking at our transmission and distribution system to identify opportunities for reducing GHG emissions. We produce reports to the province of British Columbia and can confirm that emissions from our system are quite low. For example, we're looking at how compressor stations are powered and

- evaluating if these stations could be powered by renewable gas or electricity in the future. We're also looking at reducing emissions from our own operations and facilities.
- b. FortisBC: In terms of reducing the GHG emissions associated with the energy we supply, we're looking at ways to largely de-carbonize the supply by displacing conventional natural gas with renewable gas such as renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen (H₂). We're also looking at carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology which can reduce our emissions footprint.
4. Attendee: **Could you please share the link to the Clean Growth Innovation Fund?**
 - a. FortisBC: **Please see FortisBC's Clean Growth Innovation Fund webpage [here](#).**
 5. Attendee: Who will upgrade the grid to meet this increased load and when will they start? Will there be grants for house owners to upgrade electrical services?
 - a. FortisBC: It's our understanding that the federal government will be providing low interest loans for energy efficiency upgrades and will include electrical grid upgrades. We're expecting the announcement to be by mid to late June.
 - b. FortisBC: Today we're focusing the discussion on the gas system. When we look at a scenario which sees an increase in the load, we would need to look at how this is coming on in different regions and how does this impact infrastructure. Some of the infrastructure considerations are around bringing on renewable gas to the system. For example, looking at the NI, there may be infrastructure related projects associated with renewable gas produced by woody biomass.
 6. Attendee: **How much leverage will foreign investors have on Canadian LNG? Are there protections in place for foreign investors? If so, can that affect our domestic supply or potentially the cost of our domestic supply?**
 - a. FortisBC: The Integrated Resource Planning Team at FortisBC is not in a position to know or comment on protections, if any, that the Province might be making with LNG exporters, but natural gas reserves in BC are vast. FortisBC continues to keep a close eye on this and other risks to gas supplies. **FortisBC completed a review of market conditions for natural gas production and supply in the region within the 2017 LTGRP, Section 2.2.1.1 and Appendix A, which remains very relevant in regard to risks to supply for gas customers in BC. That review can be viewed on FortisBC's web site [here](#). FortisBC includes any actions it believes it needs to take to safeguard its customers from these risks in the Action Plan contained within the LTGRP.**
 7. Attendee: We've looked a lot at district energy in our community. **Any exploration of district energy systems?**
 - a. FortisBC: **FortisBC has a subsidiary, [FortisBC Alternative Energy Services](#), who works on innovative energy solutions including district energy projects. Because this is a competitive area of the market, it's separate from the gas utility. To connect with someone and discuss potential district energy projects, please email faes@fortisbc.com or send a message using the online form found [here](#).**
 - b. Attendee: We see this as the perfect opportunity to deliver cost effective energy to communities, especially those that cannot access the gas system.
 - c. FortisBC: The British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) is doing some work on the regulation of district energy systems. The '[Pathways For British Columbia to Achieve It's GHG Reduction Goals](#)' study commissioned by FortisBC looks at ways to de-carbonize the energy system and recommends that a Diversified Pathway – which leverages gas and electric infrastructure as well as alternative energy systems.
 - d. FortisBC: FortisBC is also exploring virtual pipelines whereby we can deliver LNG to communities. This may be a cost-effective solution which can overcome cost barriers

- associated to expanding the gas system. FortisBC has experience with this in in Revelstoke and previously in Whistler. These communities could benefit from natural gas service in the short term and be transitioned to renewable gas in the future.
- e. Attendee: Thinks the Navigant study is useful to counter the electrify everything approach. Has expressed interest in purchasing RNG but was told by FortisBC that there is not enough supply right now.
 - f. FortisBC: Currently FortisBC is seeing more demand for RNG than the supply we have available. However, we are actively working on expanding the RNG supply and bringing on some large projects. In the North Interior, FortisBC is in negotiation to generate renewable gas from the Prince George landfill.
 - g. FortisBC: As part of our 30BY30 commitment, we will bring 30 petajoules (PJ) of renewable gas on the system. Furthermore, we now have approval from the BCUC to allocate the environmental attributes of renewable gas even if that fuel is not actively being delivered on our system.
8. Attendee: We've also been looking at district energy projects and FortisBC has undercut us on projects. Felt like projects were grabbed from underneath us. This is a concern that others may want to consider. [Can we work together on these project and opportunities?](#)
- a. FortisBC: **Although the people on the call are not familiar with the specifics around this project, FortisBC is always interested in pursuing partnership opportunities. We have a mandate to serve customers which could prompt competition between our services and alternate solutions. FortisBC will follow-up with the attendee to continue this discussion and explore possible partnership opportunities.**
 - b. FortisBC: **For the purposes of the 2022 LTGRP, we can document this concern in the Planning Environment section and see if there are opportunities to address this through our short-term Action Plan.**
9. Attendee: Curious about deep energy retrofits. Interested in increasing performance of buildings. What's the intake process like and how do we get in?
- a. FortisBC: FortisBC just received approval for an additional \$17 million to pilot deep energy retrofits for several commercial buildings and ~60 residential homes. We're in the pre-intake stage right now. Currently hiring staff and increasing resources internally to run this program. Those that are interested can sign-up [here](#) to be notified about upcoming pilot program opportunities.