



August 5, 2026

Sent via eFile

Letter L-16-26

Sarah Walsh
Director, Regulatory Affairs
FortisBC Inc.
16705 Fraser Highway
Surrey, BC V4N 0E8

Re: FortisBC Inc. Revised Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Policy

Dear Ms. Walsh:

On May 29, 2026, pursuant to Order G-154-25, FortisBC Inc. (FBC) filed revisions to its PSPS policy and PSPS procedure (PSPS Revisions), effective July 1, 2026.¹ The PSPS Revisions include the addition of four distribution feeders to the ten distribution feeders already listed in Appendix A of the PSPS procedure and minor housekeeping amendments throughout the PSPS policy and PSPS procedure documents.

On June 23, 2026, the BCUC received a letter from Donegal Wilson, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen (MLA Letter), regarding FBC's PSPS policy and concerns raised by residents, local governments and businesses in Boundary-Similkameen. The MLA Letter outlines the impacts of a power shut off on communities such as Kaleden, Okanagan Falls, Twin Lakes, Keremeos, Hedley and surrounding rural areas, noting that electricity is directly tied to critical systems such as irrigation, communications and emergency response. The letter sets out ten questions requesting information such as whether FBC has completed community-specific risk assessments, whether FBC has mapped critical infrastructure that may be affected, and how the BCUC will monitor FBC's implementation of the PSPS policy. The MLA Letter also encloses submissions from the Village of Keremeos and Barrick/Nickel Plate Mine, which further set out the potential impacts of prolonged outages.²

On July 2, 2026, the BCUC provided a copy of the MLA Letter to FBC for comment. FBC responded on July 9, 2026 (FBC Response). FBC submits that it has conducted community-specific risk assessments by consulting with industry experts and reviewing factors such as system information, proximity to wildfire-prone areas and weather conditions to identify regions that are at the highest risk of wildfire. Additionally, FBC submits that it has been engaging with Indigenous communities and local governments to identify critical infrastructure, vulnerable customers and other considerations to help inform outage planning and restoration priorities. FBC explains that it works with emergency management organizations, public safety partners and local governments to support preparedness efforts and provide as much advance notice as possible of a potential PSPS event so customers and communities can prepare.³

¹ Exhibit B-1.

² Exhibit A2-1, PDF pp. 4–12.

³ Exhibit B-2, PDF pp. 1, 2, 4.

On June 23, 2025, by Order G-154-25, the BCUC found that FBC's original PSPS policy and PSPS procedure, filed with the BCUC on May 20, 2025,⁴ were consistent with the Terms and Conditions of FBC's Electric Tariff (Electric Tariff) for Service in the West Kootenay and Okanagan Areas. Specifically section 10.1, which sets out that while FBC will endeavour to provide a regular and uninterrupted supply of electricity, it does not guarantee a constant supply of electricity, and section 10.2, which allows FBC to suspend service whenever necessary to safeguard life or property and requires that reasonable notice of the suspension be given as the circumstances permit.

The BCUC has reviewed the PSPS Revisions and finds that they remain consistent with the Electric Tariff and consistent with the BCUC's findings in Order G-154-25. In particular, the BCUC noted in Order G-154-25 that "the PSPS policy, as set out, is intended to be applied in circumstances necessary to safeguard life and property as permitted by its Electric Tariff and only be used as a tool of last resort where other alternatives are not sufficient",⁵ and nothing in the PSPS Revisions changes these conclusions.

In addition, the BCUC is satisfied with FBC's Response to the MLA Letter. The BCUC acknowledges that FBC continues to conduct risk assessments to identify regions that are at the highest risk of wildfire and continues to engage with Indigenous communities and local governments to understand critical infrastructure and priorities within each community. Further, FBC commits to provide as much advance notice as possible of a potential PSPS event so customers and communities can prepare. The BCUC expects FBC's engagement to continue with parties impacted by the PSPS policy.

The BCUC also reminds FBC that, pursuant to Order G-154-25, FBC must notify the BCUC in accordance with the PSPS policy, which requires notification at the PSPS watch/warning stages, when the PSPS event is initiated, and once electricity service is restored. Such notification is to include, but is not limited to, a summary of current or forecast weather conditions, areas affected, the number of customers affected, forecast or actual outage duration, and a description of when impacted parties were notified in accordance with the policy.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Wendy Royle

W. E. Royle
Commissioner

GP/kk

⁴ FBC Complaint regarding FBC's Public Safety Power Shutoff Policy, Exhibit C1-2.

⁵ Order G-154-25 dated June 23, 2025, PDF p. 13.