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October 22, 2020

Commercial Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia  
c/o Owen Bird Law Corporation  
P.O. Box 49130  
Three Bentall Centre  
2900 – 595 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V7X 1J5

Attention: Mr. Christopher P. Weafer

Dear Mr. Weafer:

**Re: City of Coquitlam (City) Application for Reconsideration and Variance of Order G-80-19 in the matter of the FortisBC Energy Inc. Application for Use of Lands under Sections 32 and 33 of the *Utilities Commission Act* in the City of Coquitlam for the Lower Mainland Intermediate Pressure System Upgrade Projects (Reconsideration Application) ~ Project No. 1599008**

**Response to the Commercial Energy Consumers Association of British Columbia (CEC) Information Request (IR) No. 1**

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In accordance with the British Columbia Utilities Commission Order G-202-20A setting out the Regulatory Timetable for the review of the above noted Application, FEI respectfully submits the attached response to CEC IR No. 1.

If further information is required, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

**FORTISBC ENERGY INC.**

***Original signed:***

Diane Roy

Attachments

cc (email only): Commission Secretary  
Registered Parties

FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI or the Company) City of Coquitlam (City) Application for Reconsideration and Variance of Order G-80-19 for the Lower Mainland Intermediate Pressure System Upgrade Projects (Application) – Cost Allocation	Submission Date: October 22, 2020
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1     **4.     Reference: Exhibit C1-9, page 2**

A3:     No, FEI believes that the cost sharing ordered by the BCUC represents a compromise that provides appropriate incentives on the City to act reasonably in making a request to remove the NPS 20 IP gas line. As described below in this Evidence, FEI's modern municipal operating agreements generally provide that the municipality pay for *all* of the costs for relocations of FEI facilities done at the municipality's request. An equal sharing of costs for removal of the NPS 20 IP gas line at the City's request provides a more generous treatment for the City than the cost allocation for relocation that is generally found in FEI's modern municipal operating agreements. The requirement for the City to be responsible for half of FEI's removal costs also mitigates a potential moral hazard, i.e., it gives the City an incentive to consider the overall cost of work relating to the NPS 20 IP gas line (and avoid costs to ratepayers).

If the party initiating the construction project is not incented to consider the whole of the project cost (that is the cost being borne by other parties), it may make choices that are overall more expensive to the public. For example, if a municipality is not incented to consider the overall cost of a project, it may require FEI to move its infrastructure even though the municipality may have had other options not requiring the alteration of FEI's infrastructure which may be more expensive for the municipality if it is only required to bear the costs of its own construction, but much less expensive when the overall cost (that is, the cost to both FEI's ratepayers and the municipality) is considered. As another example, where the municipality is not incented to reduce FEI's costs in accommodating the municipality's construction project, the municipality may require FEI to carry out its work on weekends or at night. Although this minimizes that impact of the construction on road users, it also significantly increases FEI's costs. If the municipality, that is, the party that initiates the construction project, has to bear some of these increased costs, it may decide that the cost to the public of such night or weekend work outweighs the inconvenience to the public.

2  
3             4.1     Is there a difference between FEI's 'modern' municipal operating agreements  
4                   and older agreements?

5  
6     **Response:**

7     There are differences between FEI's modern municipal operating agreements and older  
8     operating agreements. While all operating agreements set out the terms and conditions of FEI's  
9     use of municipal public spaces, modern operating agreements are generally more detailed.

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13             4.1.1     If yes, please provide a brief explanation as to the differences.  
14

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1 **Response:**

2 The FEI and City of Coquitlam Operating Agreement, dated January 7, 1957,<sup>1</sup> is an example of  
3 an older operating agreement. The FEI and Village of Keremeos Operating Agreement, dated  
4 April 1, 2014, is an example of a modern operating agreement and is provided in Attachment  
5 4.1.1.

6 The modern operating agreements contain more detail than older operating agreements in  
7 areas such the provision of notice when FEI intends to undertake certain types of work, and  
8 require FEI to comply with municipal bylaws and standards in certain circumstances. In  
9 addition, the cost allocation for alteration, change or relocation of FEI's assets to accommodate  
10 the municipality's requirements are different between these two types of agreements. Some of  
11 the older agreements, like the Coquitlam Operating Agreement, contain a cost allocation  
12 formula that is dependent on the age of the gas line. The cost allocation specified in modern  
13 agreements, with the exception of the City of Surrey Operating Agreement, is that when the  
14 municipality requests the alteration, change or relocation, the municipality pays 100 percent of  
15 FEI's costs.

16

17

18

19 4.1.1.1 Please identify when the 'modern' agreements came into  
20 existence and explain how many of these there are relative to  
21 older agreements.

22

23 **Response:**

24 In 2005, FEI negotiated with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities with respect to a new  
25 form of operating agreement setting out the terms and conditions under which FEI would  
26 exercise its right to use public places in ten municipalities in the Interior of British Columbia.  
27 These municipalities had franchise or operating agreements with FEI that expired on December  
28 31, 2005. By Orders C-7-06 to C-16-06, the BCUC approved these operating agreements.  
29 These orders were included as Appendix B to FEI's Evidence (Exhibit C1-9). As discussed in  
30 section 3 of FEI's Evidence, by Order C-8-14, the BCUC ordered that the operating agreement  
31 between FEI and the Village of Keremeos would be the basis for comparison for all future  
32 operating agreement applications (Keremeos Terms).

33 Later, FEI undertook negotiations with a number of municipalities on Vancouver Island to  
34 establish the terms of a new form of Vancouver Island municipal operating agreement (VIMOA),  
35 which negotiations concluded in the fall of 2014. In June of 2015, by Orders C-6-15 to C-8-15,  
36 the BCUC approved the VIMOA for 26 municipalities on Vancouver Island. An example of a  
37 VIMOA was included in Appendix F to FEI's Evidence.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix B to the Original Decision.

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As discussed above, there are 26 municipalities on Vancouver Island with a VIMOA. There are 41 municipalities with Keremeos Terms, albeit with slight variations. In addition, FEI and the City of Surrey entered into a new operating agreement, dated May 3, 2019. FEI has older operating or franchise agreements with approximately 30 municipalities.

4.1.1.2 Is the current agreement with the City of Coquitlam considered a 'modern' agreement?

**Response:**

The FEI and City of Coquitlam Operating Agreement is dated January 7, 1957. FEI does not consider this to be a modern operating agreement.

4.2 What, if any, options for review would be available to FEI if the City were to make demands that were not cost effective, such as those provided in the examples above?

**Response:**

FEI would first try to work with the City to resolve the matter to the parties' mutual satisfaction. If the parties were not able to resolve the matter, the BCUC retains jurisdiction to resolve the matter in the absence of an applicable dispute resolution provision.

4.2.1 Could FEI ask the Commission for guidelines as to what may be appropriate? Please explain.

**Response:**

Yes, FEI could ask the BCUC to provide guidelines with respect to the implementation of the cost sharing ordered in Directive 2 of BCUC Order G-80-19. However, a challenge with preparing detailed guidelines at this time is that the issues that could arise may be context-specific or unique. FEI believes that the clear articulation of the principle in the BCUC's decision, combined with effective cost incentives as exist in Directive 2 of Order G-80-19, will go a long way to drive reasonable behavior on the part of both parties.

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4.3 Has FEI had the experience in which a city or municipality has made unreasonable demands because of the lack of incentive to consider total project costs?

**Response:**

In FEI's experience, municipalities as well as other third parties typically plan routes to avoid FEI's existing infrastructure. FEI has experienced some situations where a municipality has approached FEI to discuss an alteration or relocation of FEI's assets that would be required to accommodate a proposed municipal project, and following discussions with FEI regarding the cost to the municipality of such alteration or relocation pursuant to the applicable operating agreement, the municipality has redesigned or changed its project.

4.3.1 If yes, please provide examples and identify when these situations occurred and the final outcomes.

**Response:**

FEI believes that the current situation with the City of Coquitlam is an example of a situation where a municipality made unreasonable demands on FEI because of the perceived lack of incentive to consider total project costs. In particular, the City withheld formal sign-off of engineering/alignment drawings as contemplated in the Operating Agreement for the construction of the NPS 30 IP gas line unless FEI agreed at its own cost to remove 380 metres of the abandoned NPS 20 IP gas line and later, the entire 5.5 km of NPS 20 IP gas line within the City's boundaries.

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1     **5.     Reference: Exhibit C1-9, page 4**

**Q8:     How are costs for the removal of the NPS 20 IP gas line, if required by the City of Burnaby, dealt with in the Terms of Reference with the City of Burnaby?**

**A8:     Section 2(e) of the Burnaby Terms of Reference address this situation. The Terms of Reference provide:**

If the City reasonably determines that the 20 inch gas line must be removed to accommodate a municipal project, third party project or utilities, the City may by written notice to FortisBC require FortisBC to remove such portion of the 20 inch gas line, provided that:

- i.     FortisBC will coordinate the removal of such portion of the 20 inch gas line with the City;
- ii.    FortisBC will obtain all applicable approvals and permits required to remove such portion of the 20 inch gas line outlined in (i) above; and
- iii.   FortisBC will be responsible for costs of removing and disposing of that portion of the 20 inch gas line outlined in (i) above and the City will be responsible for the costs of excavation, backfilling and surface restoration except to the extent that such costs are greater as a result of the removal of the 20 inch gas line than they have would been for the excavation, backfilling and surface restoration for the municipal project, third party project or utilities.

2  
3             5.1     Please confirm that the costs referenced for removal of the NPS 20 IP gas line  
4                   refer to a decommissioned inactive line.

5  
6     **Response:**

7     Confirmed. The costs referenced in the provision were intended to apply to the NPS 20 IP gas  
8     line after it was decommissioned and abandoned in place.

9  
10  
11  
12            5.2     Please provide further explanation, with an example, of the types of  
13                   circumstances that might contribute to a situation in which the costs are greater  
14                   as a result of the removal of the pipeline and how these costs would be allocated.  
15                   Is this a common situation?

16  
17     **Response:**

18     In FEI's experience, excavation, backfilling and surface restoration costs vary substantially on a  
19     lineal metre by lineal metre basis. Factors that typically impact the cost per lineal metre include  
20     different traffic management requirements, subsurface ground conditions, presence of other  
21     infrastructure, location of existing underground utilities, location of the new infrastructure, and



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surface restoration requirements (which may change due to updated standards or modifications to the road design). The removal of the NPS 20 IP gas line may necessitate the excavation of a larger or deeper trench than would otherwise be required for a new project, which may impact some of the factors described above.

Please refer to FEI's response to BCUC-FEI IR1 2.3 for an example of how the cost allocation specified in Section 2(e) of the Burnaby Terms of Reference would be applied in a hypothetical situation involving the removal of the 5.5 kilometre length of the abandoned NPS 20 IP gas line in the City. FEI's response also refers to the circumstances in which the costs of excavation, backfilling and surface restoration might be greater because of the removal of the NPS 20 IP gas line than they would otherwise have been.

5.3 Does FEI consider the arrangement with the City of Burnaby to be reasonable and fair? Please explain why or why not.

**Response:**

Yes. As described in the response to BCUC-FEI IR1 2.2, the Burnaby Terms of Reference was the result of a collaborative process that resolved a number of issues between FEI and the City of Burnaby, and allowed FEI to proceed with the construction of the NPS 30 IP gas line on schedule.

5.4 Please compare and contrast the agreement that FEI has with the City of Burnaby and that of the City of Coquitlam.

**Response:**

The Burnaby Terms of Reference is a LMIPSU Project-specific agreement, while the City of Coquitlam agreement referred to in the Information Request is an operating agreement between FEI and the City of Coquitlam, dated January 7, 1957 (Coquitlam Operating Agreement), which sets out the terms and conditions of FEI's use of the City's public places. There is a separate operating agreement with the City of Burnaby, dated April 19, 1926.

To the extent that the question relates to a comparison of the allocation of costs for removing a section of the NPS 20 IP gas line specified in section 2(e) of the Burnaby Terms of Reference, and the cost allocation provisions in the Coquitlam Operating Agreement, the BCUC determined the cost allocation provisions in the Coquitlam Operating Agreement do not apply to the removal of the abandoned NPS 20 IP gas line, and therefore a comparison cannot be made.



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- 1 Please refer to the response to BCUC-FEI IR1 2.3, in which FEI provides a comparison of the
- 2 application of the cost allocation specified in Directive 2 of Order G-80-19 and the cost
- 3 allocation specified in the Burnaby Terms of Reference in a hypothetical situation involving the
- 4 removal of the 5.5 kilometre length of the NPS 20 IP gas line.
- 5



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1     **6.     Reference: Exhibit C1-9, page 6**

**Q11:   What does the Keremeos model agreement, and those agreements approved based on it, provide with respect to facility changes at the request of the municipality?**

**A11:   Section 8.2 of the Keremeos Terms provides as follows:**

The Municipality may provide Notice to FortisBC that it requires Company Facilities to be altered, changed or relocated to accommodate its requirements. FortisBC will comply with the Municipality's requests to the extent it is reasonably able to do so and with reasonable speed and dispatch after receipt of written request. The Municipality agrees to pay for all of the costs for changes to the affected Company Facilities. This section 8.2 is an agreement between the Municipality and FortisBC for the purpose of section 76(1)(c) of the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*. [Emphasis added.]

The City of Campbell River Operating Agreement approved by Order C-8-15 (included in Appendix F) is an example of an agreement that was based on the Keremeos Terms. While there were some changes in the wording of the applicable section, the allocation approach remained the same. Section 9.2 states:

The Municipality may provide Notice to FortisBC that it requires Company Facilities to be altered, changed, temporarily shut-down, temporarily by-passed, or relocated to accommodate its requirements. FortisBC will comply with the Municipality's requests to the extent it is reasonably able to do so and with reasonable speed and dispatch after receipt of written request. The Municipality agrees to pay for all of the Costs for changes to the affected Company Facilities except where such Company Facilities were not installed in conformity with Section 7.7 of this Agreement. FortisBC shall provide estimates and invoices to the Municipality in respect of such work in accordance with Section 15 of this Agreement.

This Section 9.2 is an agreement between the Municipality and FortisBC for the purpose of section 76(1)(c) of the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*. [Emphasis added]

2  
3             6.1     Do the agreements based on the Keremeos model deal only with the removal of  
4                   decommissioned pipeline, or are they intended to deal with operating pipelines,  
5                   or does it matter? Please explain.

6  
7     **Response:**

8     Please refer to the response to BCUC-FEI IR1 3.1 where FEI discusses that the Keremeos  
9     Terms address requests for alterations, changes or relocations of assets such as gas lines  
10    irrespective of whether they are operating.

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## 1 7. Reference: Exhibit C1-9, pages 7-8

### 5.0 FEI's Processes for Third Party Utilities

**Q13: Please explain FEI's general process when existing third party utilities are in proximity to planned FEI construction activities.**

**A13: The presence of existing utilities is a consideration and challenge for most utility operators, including FEI.**

Before FEI designs new infrastructure, it first identifies what is already in the ground and considers if it is more efficient to plan around existing infrastructure. It is common for FEI to plan around existing infrastructure. As an example, FEI absorbs the additional cost of installing new mains at greater depth to keep distance from sewers.

If it is not more efficient to plan around existing infrastructure, FEI works with third party utilities to minimize potential disruptions and provides reimbursement for costs that may be incurred by the third party utility as a result of FEI's work, as further described below.

When FEI undertakes construction activities (including installation, maintenance and repair work) in proximity to third party utility infrastructure, FEI works with the third party utility owners to obtain the necessary permits and approvals required to undertake the work. This includes establishing the permit conditions and requirements to mitigate potential disruptions to third party utility service as much as practicable. If required, FEI would seek approval to temporarily disrupt the utility service, or relocate the utility service (temporarily or permanently) in order to complete the required construction activity while minimizing service disruptions.

**Q15: What is the general process when the process when a third party encounters FEI infrastructure when constructing new infrastructure?**

**A15: Generally speaking, the third party follows FEI's permitting process and usually pays FEI's costs.**

For example:

- If developer requires a municipal road to be aligned, requiring the gas main to be replaced, the developer pays FEI the full cost.
- If another utility (e.g., TELUS, Shaw, BC Hydro) performs work requiring relocation of FEI infrastructure, FEI charges the other utility for the full cost of the relocation work.

7.1 Under the current arrangement approved by the BCUC could either the City of Coquitlam or FEI seek compensation from any Third Party planning to place infrastructure and requiring the removal of pipeline? Please explain why or why not.

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1 **Response:**

2 Directive 2 of BCUC Order G-80-19 addresses removal upon request by the City in  
3 circumstances where the NPS 20 IP gas line interferes with municipal infrastructure. It does not  
4 address a request from a third party for removal of the NPS 20 IP gas line to accommodate a  
5 third party's infrastructure. Under the current arrangement, FEI's established processes would  
6 apply to third parties requesting removal of the NPS 20 IP gas line.

7

**Attachment 4.1.1**

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## OPERATING AGREEMENT

THIS OPERATING AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") made this 19<sup>TH</sup> day of May, 2014.

BETWEEN:

**VILLAGE OF KEREMEOS**, a municipal corporation  
incorporated under the laws of the Province of British Columbia

(hereinafter called the "**Municipality**")

OF THE FIRST PART

AND:

**FORTISBC ENERGY INC.**, a body corporate duly incorporated  
under the laws of the Province of British Columbia, formerly  
known as Terasen Gas Inc., and having its registered office in the  
City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia

(hereinafter called "**FortisBC**")

OF THE SECOND PART

**RECITALS:**

- A. Whereas by a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN), FortisBC was granted the right to construct and operate gas distribution facilities within the Municipality;
- B. And whereas pursuant to the Community Charter, S.B.C. 2003, a Municipal council may, by resolution adopt and enter into a licensing and operating agreement;
- C. And whereas FortisBC and the Municipality are the parties to a Franchise or Operating Agreement dated the 9th day of September, 1993 which has or will expire on October 15, 2014;
- D. And whereas FortisBC and the Municipality wish to enter into this Agreement to clarify and settle the terms and conditions under which FortisBC shall exercise its rights to use Public Places in conducting its business of distributing Gas within the Municipality.

**NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSES** that the parties covenant and agree as follows:

### 1. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Agreement:

- (a) “Boundary Limits” means the boundary limits of the Municipality as they exist from time to time and that determine the area over which the Municipality has control and authority;
- (b) “BCUC” means the British Columbia Utilities Commission or successor having regulatory jurisdiction over natural gas distribution utilities in British Columbia;
- (c) “CPCN” means a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity granted by the BCUC which allows FortisBC to operate, maintain and install Company Facilities for the distribution of Gas within the Municipality;
- (d) “Company Facilities” means FortisBC’s facilities, including pipes, buildings, structures, valves, signage, storage facilities, machinery, vehicles and other equipment used to maintain, operate, renew, repair, construct and monitor a natural Gas Distribution and transmission system;
- (e) “Distribution Pipelines” means pipelines operating at a pressure less than 2071 kilopascals (300 psi);
- (f) “FortisBC Employees” means personnel employed by or engaged by FortisBC including officers, employees, directors, contractors, and agents;
- (g) “Gas” means natural gas, propane, methane, synthetic gas, liquefied petroleum in a gaseous form or any mixture thereof;
- (h) “Gas Distribution” means fixed equipment, structures, plastic and metal lines and pipe, valves, fittings, appliances and related facilities used or intended for the purpose of conveying, testing, monitoring, distributing, mixing, storing, measuring and delivering Gas and making it available for use within the Municipality;
- (i) “Highway” means street, road, lane, bridge or viaduct controlled by the Municipality or Provincial Government of British Columbia;
- (j) “Mains” means pipes used by FortisBC to carry gas for general or collective use for the purposes of Gas Distribution;
- (k) “Municipal Employees” means personnel employed by or engaged by the municipality, including officers, employees, directors, contractors and agents;
- (l) “Municipal Facilities” means any facilities, including highways, sidewalks, conduits, manholes, equipment, machinery, pipes, wires, valves, buildings, structures, signage, bridges, viaducts and other equipment within the Public Places used by the Municipality for the purposes of its public works or municipal operations;

- (m) "Municipal Supervisor" means the Municipal Engineer or other such person designated by the Municipality to receive notices and issue approval as set out in this Agreement;
- (n) "New Work" means any installation, construction, repair, maintenance, alteration, extension or removal work of the Company Facilities in Public Places except;
  - (i) routine maintenance and repair of the Company Facilities that does not involve any cutting of asphalted road surface;
  - (ii) installation or repair of Service Lines whether or not such installation or repair involves cutting of asphalted road surface; or
  - (iii) emergency work;but notwithstanding such exceptions, New Work shall include any installation, construction or removal of the Company Facilities in Public Places that are planned to disturb underground Municipal Facilities;
- (o) "Pipeline Markers" means post, signage or any similar means of identification used to show the general location of Transmission Pipelines and distribution pipelines or FortisBC Rights of Way;
- (p) "Planned Facilities" means those facilities not yet constructed but which have been identified by way of documented plans for the works of the Municipality, for works of third parties, where such works are identified by documented plans approved by the Municipality, or for works of FortisBC submitted to the Municipality subject to Municipal approval;
- (q) "Public Places" means any public thoroughfare, highway, road, street, lane, alley, trail, square, park, bridge, right of way, viaduct, subway, watercourse or other public place in the Municipality;
- (r) "Service Line" means that portion of FortisBC's gas distribution system extending from a Main to the inlet of a meter set and, for the purposes of this Agreement, includes a service header and service stubs;
- (s) "Transmission Pipeline" means a pipeline of FortisBC having an operating pressure in excess of 2071 kilopascals (300 psi); and
- (t) "Utilities" means the facilities or operations of any water, waste water, sewer, telecommunications, energy, cable service or similar service provider located in Public Places within the Municipality.

## 2. INTERPRETATION

For the purposes of interpreting this Agreement:



- (a) the headings are for convenience only and are not intended as a guide to interpretation of this Agreement;
- (b) words in the singular include the plural, words importing a corporate entity include individuals, and vice versa;
- (c) in calculating time where the agreement refers to “at least” or “not less than” a number of days, weeks, months or years, the first and last days must be excluded and where the agreement refers to “at least” or “not less than” a number of days, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays must be excluded;
- (d) the word “including”, when following any general term or statement, is not to be construed as limiting the general term or statement to the specific items or matters, but rather as permitting the general term or statement to refer to all other items or matters that could reasonably fall within the broadest possible scope of the general term or statement.

### **3. OBLIGATION TO ACT IN GOOD FAITH**

FortisBC and the Municipality acknowledge and agree that they will act in good faith, in carrying out the terms and conditions of this Agreement and within reasonable time frames, carry out the obligations under this Agreement.

FortisBC and the Municipality will at all times carry out all work and operations with the due care and attention that is necessary to safeguard the interests of the public, their own employees, and the other party's employees.

### **4. FORTISBC RIGHTS TO ACCESS & USE PUBLIC PLACES**

The Municipality hereby acknowledges FortisBC's rights to:

- (a) develop, construct, install, maintain or remove Company Facilities on, over, in and under Public Places in the Municipality;
- (b) enter on Public Places from time to time as may be reasonably necessary for the purpose of maintaining, repairing, or operating the Company's Facilities;
- (c) place pipeline identification markers within Public Places where a Transmission Pipeline or Distribution Pipeline crosses or is otherwise within a Public Place;

subject to terms and conditions defined in this Agreement.

## **5. FORTISBC COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR USE OF PUBLIC PLACES**

### **5.1 Non-discriminatory Standards for FortisBC**

In its use of Public Places, FortisBC shall comply with all Federal and Provincial laws, regulations and codes and shall comply with all Municipal bylaws, standards and policies except that FortisBC shall not have to comply with such Municipal bylaws, standards and policies that:

- (a) conflict with terms of this Agreement or limit any rights or concessions granted to FortisBC by the Municipality under this Agreement; or
- (b) conflict with other legislation governing FortisBC.

Further, where the Municipality has established requirements and standards for work in Public Places, the Municipality shall apply them in a fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory manner consistent with the manner that the Municipality establishes requirements on other Utilities.

### **5.2 Provide emergency contacts.**

FortisBC will provide the Municipality with a 24 hour emergency contact number which the Municipality will use to notify FortisBC of emergencies including; gas leaks, third party accidents around work sites, ruptures of gas lines, and other potentially hazardous situations.

### **5.3 Assist with facility locates**

FortisBC will, at no cost to the Municipality, provide locations of its Company Facilities within a time frame as may be reasonably requested by the Municipality unless the reason for the request is the result of an emergency; in which case the information shall be provided forthwith. FortisBC shall provide gas locations from FortisBC records. FortisBC shall perform on site facility locates in accordance with the *Safety Standards Act* – Gas Safety Regulations Section 39.

## **6. FORTISBC WORK OBLIGATIONS:**

### **6.1 Notices - General Requirements**

#### **6.1.1. Notice for New Work**

For New Work, FortisBC shall give notice to the Municipality or such officer or official thereof who has been designated from time to time by the Municipality that it intends to perform such New Work. The Notice shall include:

- (a) a plan and specifications showing the proposed location and dimensions of the New Work;

- (b) FortisBC's plans for the restoration of the Public Place affected by the New Work if FortisBC's restoration plans are different from those set out in Section 6.4.2 of this Agreement;
- (c) the name of a FortisBC representative who may be contacted for more information;
- (d) projected commencement and completion dates; and
- (e) such other information relevant to the New Work as the Municipality may reasonably request from time to time.

#### **6.1.2. Exception for Emergency**

Where FortisBC is required to carry out work urgently in the interests of public safety or health or to preserve the safety of property and Company Facilities, FortisBC shall not be required to give prior notice but shall do so as soon as possible thereafter.

#### **6.1.3. Municipal Approval for New Work**

The Municipality may object to the New Work on the following grounds:

- (a) the proposed location of the New Work conflicts with existing Municipal Facilities, existing third party facilities or Planned Facilities; or
- (b) the proposed location or design of the New Work is likely to compromise public safety or does not conform with Municipal bylaws, standards or policies; or
- (c) in instances where FortisBC can delay the New Work without compromising the supply, capacity or safety of its Gas Distribution System or its customers' need for gas service and the Municipality intends within the next 3 months to undertake work in the same location and wishes to co-ordinate both work;

by providing FortisBC with notice of its objections, provided such objections are reasonable, no more than 10 days after receiving FortisBC's notice of New Work. If the Municipality has not provided such notice of its objections to FortisBC, or in the case of large and complex New Work, the Municipality has not provided FortisBC with a notice to extend the time to reply to FortisBC until a stated time, the Municipality shall be deemed to have granted its approval of the New Work. The Municipality shall not otherwise withhold or delay its approval.

In addition, the Municipality may request FortisBC to provide the public with notice of the New Work.

#### **6.1.4. Work Not to Proceed**

If the Municipality has notified FortisBC of its objections or has requested a time extension, no more than 10 days after receiving FortisBC's notice of New Work, FortisBC shall not proceed with the New Work until FortisBC and the Municipality have agreed upon a resolution to the Municipality's objections. If the Municipality and FortisBC are unable to agree, then the matter shall be resolved in accordance with Section 17 (Resolution of Disputes).

#### **6.2 Notice of Service Lines**

FortisBC shall provide the Municipality with notice of its intent to install, remove or repair Service Lines no less than three (3) days prior to commencement of such work. FortisBC's request for the location of the Municipality's utilities shall be deemed to be a notice of FortisBC's intent to install, remove or repair Service Lines. The Municipality may object to such work on the same grounds as set out in Subsection 6.1.3 (a) and (b) above by providing FortisBC with notice of its objections within two (2) days of receiving FortisBC's notice. If the Municipality has not provided such notice of its objections to FortisBC, the Municipality shall be deemed to have granted its approval of the installation, removal or repair of the Service Lines. The Municipality shall not otherwise withhold or delay its approval.

#### **6.3 FortisBC to Obtain Locate Information**

Prior to conducting any New Work, FortisBC shall locate other Utilities and satisfy itself that it is clear to proceed.

#### **6.4 Work Standards**

All work carried out by FortisBC shall be carried out in accordance with sound engineering practices.

##### **6.4.1. Specific Work Requirements Remove Materials**

FortisBC shall keep its work sites clean and tidy. FortisBC shall remove all rubbish and surplus material from Public Places upon completion of its work.

The Company shall not leave any part of its gas system in such a state as to constitute a nuisance or a danger to the public through neglect, non-use and want or repair.

##### **6.4.2. Restore Surface and Subsurface**

Where FortisBC has performed any operations or New Work in a Public Place, FortisBC shall restore without unreasonable delay and return such Public Place, as much as reasonably practical, to the condition and use which existed prior to such activity. The restoration will be in accordance with the specifications set out by

the Municipality. Such specifications may include the degree and nature of compaction, subsurface structure, surface finish and landscaping required.

Without limiting the generality of this section and by way of example only, the Municipality may require FortisBC to restore asphalt and concrete surfaces with a permanent repair or a temporary repair. Should a temporary repair be directed, FortisBC or the Municipality at its discretion will subsequently construct a permanent repair in accordance to its usual maintenance/replacement schedule for that area. The cost of permanent and temporary repairs to remediate Highway surfaces will be at the expense of FortisBC proportional to the surface area affected by the New Work.

Where FortisBC is required to cut pavement on a Public Place such cuts and restoration will be limited to less than 1.5 meters unless at the discretion of FortisBC a larger excavation is warranted due to the depth or size of the pipe or requirements of the Workers' Compensation Board or other relevant Provincial or Federal regulations. FortisBC will be responsible for any repairs and maintenance of the surface repair for a period of three (3) years. However, where pavement restoration has been conducted by the Municipality, whether or not such work was undertaken to repair cuts on FortisBC's behalf, FortisBC shall not be responsible for the repairs or maintenance of the surface repair.

#### **6.4.3. Repair Damage to Municipal Facilities**

To the extent that any of the work being done by FortisBC results in damage to Municipal Facilities or Public Places, other than the usual physical disruption to Public Places caused by the installation of Company Facilities that FortisBC shall restore in accordance with Section 6.4.2 above, FortisBC will, as soon as reasonably possible, report such damage and reimburse the Municipality for its costs arising from such damage calculated in accordance with Section 14.1 below. Where such damage results directly from inaccurate or incomplete information supplied by Municipality, and FortisBC has complied with all applicable laws and regulations, and with instructions supplied by the Municipality, then the cost of repairing damaged Municipal Facilities or Public Places will be at the expense of the Municipality.

### **6.5 Conformity Requirement**

The New Work must be carried out in conformity with FortisBC's notice of New Work except that FortisBC may make in-field design changes when carrying out the New Work to accommodate field conditions which could not have been reasonably foreseen by FortisBC. If such in-field conditions materially impact FortisBC's plans for restoration or materially change the impact of FortisBC's work on Municipal Facilities, other than in respect of projected commencement and completion dates, FortisBC shall notify the Municipality of the changes and the reasons for them as soon as reasonably possible.

## **6.6 Non-Compliance**

If Company Facilities located in Public Places are later found not to be located in compliance with FortisBC's notice of New Work provided in accordance with Section 6.1 and 6.5, then any alteration or upgrading required to bring them into compliance with such notice will be at the expense of FortisBC provided that the work has not been altered, damaged or modified by the Municipality or a third party.

## **7. COMPANY FACILITY CHANGES REQUIRED BY THE MUNICIPALITY**

### **7.1 Notice of Closure of Public Places**

Before any Public Places containing Company Facilities may be legally closed or alienated by the Municipality, the Municipality shall as soon as reasonably possible notify FortisBC of its intent to close or alienate such Public Places and either:

- (a) grant FortisBC a registered statutory right of way in a form satisfactory to FortisBC so as to maintain FortisBC's right to use the land; or
- (b) request FortisBC to remove and (if possible and practicable) relocate those Company Facilities affected by such closure or alienation at the sole cost of the Municipality.

If the Public Places are expropriated by an expropriating authority and FortisBC is required to remove the Company Facilities then the Municipality shall as soon as reasonably possible notify FortisBC of the expropriation. This provision is applicable when the Municipality receives official notice of expropriation or otherwise becomes aware of expropriation through communications with the expropriating authority.

## **8. FACILITY CHANGES REQUIRED**

### **8.1 By FortisBC**

FortisBC may provide Notice to the Municipality that it requires Municipal Facilities to be altered, changed, temporarily shut-down, temporarily by-passed, or relocated to accommodate its requirements. The Municipality will comply with FortisBC's requests to the extent it is reasonably able to do so and with reasonable speed and dispatch after receipt of written request. FortisBC agrees to pay for all of the costs for changes to the affected Municipal Facilities.

### **8.2 By the Municipality**

The Municipality may provide Notice to FortisBC that it requires Company Facilities to be altered, changed or relocated to accommodate its requirements. FortisBC will comply with the Municipality's requests to the extent it is reasonably able to do so and with reasonable speed and dispatch after receipt of written request. The Municipality agrees to pay for all of the costs for changes to the affected Company Facilities. This section 8.2 is

an agreement between the Municipality and FortisBC for the purpose of section 76(1)(c) of the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*.

## **9. JOINT PLANNING, COOPERATION AND COORDINATION**

### **9.1 Conduct of Construction and Maintenance Activities**

The Municipality and FortisBC agree to use reasonable efforts in carrying out their construction and maintenance activities in a manner that is responsive to the effect that it may have on the other party, as well as other users of Public Places. Such reasonable efforts include attending the planning meetings described in Section 9.2 below and reducing as much as is practical, the obstruction of access to Public Places, and interference with the facilities and activities of others in Public Places.

### **9.2 Communication and Coordination Activities**

At the initiation of the Municipality, representatives of the Municipality, FortisBC and other affected Utilities and third parties will meet each year, prior to the construction season, to discuss the parties' anticipated construction activities for that year. Such discussions will include

- (a) the use of common trenching, common utility access facilities and such other common facilities as may be commercially reasonable and comply with operating and safety standards; and
- (b) the consolidation of planned maintenance work where pavement must be cut in order to avoid multiple excavations.

### **9.3 Municipal Planning Lead**

During such annual planning meetings, the Municipality shall lead the planning process for all Utilities and third parties with Planned Facilities in Public Places.

## **10. MUTUAL INDEMNITY**

### **10.1 Indemnity by FortisBC**

**10.1.1.** FortisBC indemnifies and protects and saves the Municipality harmless from and against all claims by third parties in respect to loss of life, personal injury (including, in all cases, personal discomfort and illness), loss or damage to property caused by FortisBC in:

- (a) placing, constructing, renewing, altering, repairing, maintaining, removing, extending, operating or using the Company's Facilities on or under any Public Places;
- (b) any breach of this Agreement by FortisBC;



except to the extent contributed by negligence or default of the Municipality or the Municipal Employees.

**10.1.2.** This indemnity expressly extends to all acts and omissions of FortisBC Employees.

## **10.2 Indemnity by the Municipality**

**10.2.1.** The Municipality indemnifies and protects and saves FortisBC harmless from and against all claims by third parties in respect to loss of life, personal injury (including, in all cases, personal discomfort and illness), loss or damage to property to the extent caused by the Municipality in:

- (a) placing, constructing, renewing, altering, repairing, maintaining, removing, extending, operating or using the Municipal Facilities on or under any Public Places;
- (b) any breach of this Agreement by the Municipality;

except to the extent contributed by the negligence or default of FortisBC or FortisBC Employees.

**10.2.2.** This indemnity expressly extends to all acts and omissions of Municipal Employees.

## **10.3 Limitations on Municipality's Liability**

All property of FortisBC kept or stored on the Public Places will be kept or stored at the risk of FortisBC. For further certainty, FortisBC acknowledges that the Municipality has made no representations or warranties as to the state of repair or the suitability of the Public Places for any business, activity or purpose whatsoever. FortisBC accepts its use of Public Places on an "as is" basis.

# **11. OPERATING FEE**

## **11.1 Fee Calculation**

**11.1.1.** FortisBC agrees to pay to the Municipality a fee of three percent (3%) of the gross revenues (excluding taxes) received by FortisBC for provision and distribution of all gas consumed within the Boundary Limits of the Municipality provided that the Municipality is permitted by law to charge such a fee. Such amount will not include any amount received by FortisBC for gas supplied or sold for resale.

**11.1.2.** The Municipality will provide FortisBC with thirty (30) days prior written notice of any boundary expansion so that existing and new customers in the expanded area can be included as a part of the annual payment fee.

**11.1.3.** FortisBC will be responsible for adding those existing and new customers within the new Municipal boundary upon receipt of such notice from the Municipality and the revised calculation of the fee will commence effective the date that is the later of the date of actual boundary change or thirty (30) days after the notification under section 11.1.2.

## **11.2 Payment Date and Period**

Payments by FortisBC to the Municipality will be made on the first day of March of each year of the Agreement in respect of the amount received by FortisBC during that portion of the term of this Agreement which is in the immediately preceding calendar year. By way of example only, payment made on March 1, 2014 will be the amount received during the 2013 calendar year.

## **11.3 BCUC Decision or Provincial Legislation**

In the event that a decision by the BCUC, other than periodic rate changes as a result of commodity, delivery or margin increases or decreases, or new legislation by the Provincial Government, impacts the operating fee being paid to the Municipality so as to increase it or decrease it by more than 5% annually at the time of the decision or in subsequent years, the parties shall negotiate a new operating fee formula which best reflects the revenue stream received by the Municipality under this Agreement. For greater certainty, the parties acknowledge that a change to the BCUC's decision that FortisBC shall provide the agency billing and collections service for marketers on a mandatory basis, as set out in the "Business Rules for Commodity Unbundling dated June 5, 2003 as set out in Appendix A to Letter No. L-25-03, may impact the operating fee being paid to the Municipality.

## **12. OTHER APPROVALS, PERMITS OR LICENSES**

Except as specifically provided in this Agreement, the Municipality will not require FortisBC to seek or obtain approvals, permits or licenses. The Municipality will not charge or levy against FortisBC any approval, license, inspection or permit fee, or charge of any other type, that in any manner is related to or associated with FortisBC constructing, installing, renewing, altering, repairing, maintaining or operating Company Facilities on any Public Places or in any manner related to or associated with FortisBC exercising the powers and rights granted to it by this Agreement (other than for repair of damage to the Municipal Facilities or Public Places in accordance with Section 14).

If the Municipality does charge or levy fees or costs against FortisBC (other than for repair of damage to the Municipal Facilities or Public Places in accordance with Section 14) then FortisBC may reduce the annual operating fee payable to the Municipality under Section 11 by an amount equal to such charges, fees or costs or in the event no annual operating fee is payable, FortisBC will not be required to pay such charges or fees or costs.

## **13. MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS**

### **13.1 Municipal Work**

**13.1.1.** Before the Municipality undertakes any construction or maintenance activity which is likely to affect a part of the Company Facilities, excluding routine maintenance and repair that does not involve any cutting of asphalted road surface, it must give FortisBC notice not less than 10 days before commencing such construction or maintenance activity.

Before the Municipality undertakes routine maintenance and repair that does not involve any cutting of asphalted road surface and is likely to affect Company Facilities, it must give FortisBC notice not less than 3 days before commencing such construction or maintenance activity.

**13.1.2.** Where the Municipality is required to carry out work urgently in the interests of public safety or health or to preserve the safety of property and Municipal Facilities, the Municipality shall not be required to give prior notice but shall do so as soon as possible thereafter.

**13.1.3.** FortisBC will be entitled to appoint at its cost a representative to inspect any construction or maintenance activity undertaken by the Municipality. The provisions of this section do not relieve the Municipality of its responsibilities under the *Gas Safety Act*, *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, and successor legislation, regulations thereunder, or the requirements of the BC Workers' Compensation Board.

**13.1.4.** In addition, the Municipality shall provide Notice to FortisBC of any work planned that will be adjacent to, across, over or under a Transmission Pipeline or within a right-of-way for a Transmission Pipeline. To the extent that FortisBC requires that permit be issued for construction or other activities within a Transmission Pipeline right-of-way, the Municipality will submit an application for such a permit in sufficient time for the application to be reviewed and approved by FortisBC prior to the commencement of the construction or other activity.

**13.1.5.** The Municipality shall assist FortisBC in FortisBC's efforts to reduce instances of residences being built over gas lines and other similarly unsafe building practices by third parties.

**13.1.6.** The Municipality shall not interfere with Transmission Pipeline markers.

**13.1.7.** The Municipality shall provide notice to FortisBC of any damage caused by the Municipality to Company Facilities or Transmission Pipeline Markers as soon as reasonably possible. To the extent that any of the work being done by the Municipality results in damage to the Company Facilities, the Municipality will report such damage and pay FortisBC its costs arising from such damage in accordance with Section 14.1 below.

Where such damage results directly from inaccurate or incomplete information supplied by FortisBC, and the Municipality has complied with all applicable laws and regulations, and with instructions supplied by FortisBC, then the cost of repairing the damaged Company Facilities will be at the expense of FortisBC.

**13.1.8.** The Municipality shall notify FortisBC of any new bylaws, standards or policies adopted or passed by the Municipality that are likely to affect FortisBC's operations in Public Places.

## **14. COSTS AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES**

### **14.1 Definition of Costs**

Wherever one party is required to pay the other party Costs as a result of damage caused by one party to the other's property, the Costs shall be:

- (a) all direct expenses and disbursements incurred to restore such property to as good a state of repair as had existed prior to the damage;
- (b) reasonable administration and overhead charges on labour, equipment and materials;
- (c) such taxes as may be required in the appropriate jurisdiction;
- (d) in the case of loss of gas or re-lights, the cost of the commodity as determined by the length of time that the gas is leaking, size of pipe and hole and the pressure; and
- (e) in the case of water, electrical or sewer, cost of supplying alternate service.

### **14.2 Cost Claim Procedures**

**14.2.1.** Wherever one party is claiming Costs of the other party in regard to any work or issue arising under this Agreement the claiming party shall:

- (a) provide an invoice to the other party no later than one year after incurring Costs;
- (b) provide detailed descriptions of the cost items;
- (c) provide the time period the invoice covers;
- (d) provide a minimum of 21 day terms for payment of the invoice; and
- (e) provide for late payment interest at the rate consistent with the party's policy for charging for late payments, which rate must be reasonable;

- 14.2.2.** The party claiming Costs shall have no right of set off for these invoices against any amounts otherwise payable to the other party, except to the extent so approved in writing by the other party.

#### **14.3 Cost Verification Procedures**

- 14.3.1.** Wherever either party is the recipient of or is claiming Costs and or fees that party may at its own discretion request from the other party:

- (a) Certification by an officer or designated representative verifying the calculations and computations of the Costs and or fees, or
- (b) An internal review or audit of the calculations and computations of the Costs and or fees, with the internal review or audit to be carried out by a person appointed by the party being asked to provide the review; or
- (c) An independent external audit of the calculations and computations of the costs and fees, with the independent external auditor being a Chartered or a Certified General Accountant in British Columbia appointed by the party requesting the external audit;

- 14.3.2.** The costs of this cost verification process shall be borne by the party who is required to supply the information except as otherwise specified providing the frequency of such requests does not exceed once per calendar year. For all future cases which occur in that calendar year, the costs of such further verifications shall be at the expense of the requester.

Where the independent external audit finds and establishes errors representing a variance greater than 2% of the originally calculated value in favour of the party claiming Costs, the costs shall be at the expense of the party supplying the information. Once an error has been verified, payment or refund of the amount found to be in error will be made within 21 days.

### **15. START, TERMINATION AND CONTINUITY**

#### **15.1 Municipal Authority to Enter into Agreement**

Prior to entering into this Agreement the Municipality will complete all procedures, obtain all consents and enact and bring into force all resolutions required under the *Community Charter*, and amendments thereto, and all other applicable legislation, to approve and authorize this Agreement.

#### **15.2 Agreement Not Binding Until Approved by BCUC**

- 15.2.1.** This Agreement will not come into effect and does not bind the parties until FortisBC has obtained such approvals of this Agreement, or its terms, as may be required under the *Utilities Commission Act*. Upon executing this Agreement FortisBC shall make reasonable efforts to fulfill this

condition. If this condition is not fulfilled or waived within one (1) year of the date of execution of this Agreement, then the obligation on FortisBC to make reasonable efforts to fulfill this condition will terminate, and neither party will have any further obligation to the other under this Agreement.

### **15.3 Termination of Franchise Agreement**

If not already terminated or expired, any franchise and operating agreement between the Municipality and FortisBC is terminated upon the effective date of this Agreement as referred to in section 15.2 of this Agreement.

### **15.4 Term of Agreement**

This Agreement will have a term of 20 years from the date that it comes into effect and after the initial term shall continue indefinitely unless terminated in accordance with Section 15.5 below.

### **15.5 Termination of Agreement**

**15.5.1.** This Agreement may be terminated by the Municipality upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (a) FortisBC admits its inability to pay its debts generally as they become due or otherwise acknowledges its insolvency;
- (b) FortisBC starts proceedings or takes any action to commence or executes an agreement to authorize its participation in any proceeding:
  - (i) seeking to adjudicate it bankrupt or insolvent;
  - (ii) seeking liquidation, reorganization, arrangement, protection, relief or composition of it or any of its property or debt or making a proposal with respect to it under any law relating to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or compromise of debts or other similar laws; or
  - (iii) seeking the appointment of a receiver, trustee, agent, custodian or other similar official for it or for any substantial part of its assets or if a creditor seeks the appointment of a receiver, trustee, agent, custodian or other similar official for any substantial part of its assets; and such proceeding is not dismissed, discharged, stayed or restrained within 20 days of the Municipality becoming aware of it.

**15.5.2.** Either party may terminate if other breaches any term, provision, obligation hereunder and such breach, is a material major breach, and has not been cured within sixty (60) days of receipt of Notice of such breach. A Party will not be considered to be in default if such matter is in dispute

or has been referred to commercial arbitration, the outcome of which is pending, or is being resolved in good faith compliance with the dispute resolution and arbitration processes of this Agreement.

**15.5.3.** After the initial twenty (20) year term of this Agreement, either party may terminate this Agreement by giving the other not less than one (1) year's notice of termination.

## **15.6 Amendments and Waivers**

This Agreement may be amended only by an agreement in writing signed by the parties. No waiver of any provision nor consent to any exception to the terms of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing and signed by the parties to be bound, and then only to the specific purpose, extent and instance so provided. No waiver, delay or failure to exercise any rights under this Agreement shall be construed as a continuing waiver of such right or as a waiver of any other right under this Agreement.

The parties agree to meet to discuss the operations of the Agreement within thirty (30) days of either party making the request. Such a meeting will determine whether any amendments are required to this Agreement and the parties shall discuss any proposed amendments with a view to maximizing the benefit of the relationship.

## **15.7 Negotiations on Termination or Expiry of this Agreement**

Upon one party giving Notice to the other of termination of this Agreement, the parties shall negotiate in good faith to enter into a new agreement with respect to the terms and conditions under which FortisBC may use the Public Places. In the event that such negotiations break down and in the opinion of one or other of the parties acting in good faith that settlement is unlikely, either party may give Notice to the other of its intention to apply to the BCUC to seek resolution of the terms and conditions applicable to FortisBC's continued operations and construction activities within the Municipality.

## **15.8 Continuity In The Event No Agreement Is Settled**

Upon termination of this Agreement, if a new agreement has not been ratified or if the BCUC has not imposed the terms and conditions under which FortisBC may use the Public Places, the following provisions will apply:

- (a) The Company Facilities within the boundary limits of the Municipality both before and after the date of this Agreement, shall remain FortisBC's property and shall remain in the Public Places.
- (b) The Company Facilities may continue to be used by FortisBC for the purposes of its business, or removed from Public Places in whole or in part at FortisBC's sole discretion.
- (c) FortisBC may continue to use Public Places within the Municipality for the purposes of its business. FortisBC's employees, may enter upon all the Public Places within the Boundary Limits of the Municipality to maintain,



operate, install, construct, renew, alter, or place Company Facilities; provided that FortisBC continues to operate in a manner consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement as if the term had been extended except with respect to the payment of the operating fee.

- (d) FortisBC will with the support of the Municipality take such steps necessary to seek BCUC approvals of the extension of terms and conditions including payment of the operating fee under the terminated agreement during negotiations of a new agreement.
- (e) Should FortisBC no longer be authorized or required to pay the operating fee under any Agreement between it and the Municipality or by any order of the BCUC, the Municipality shall be free to apply such approval, permit and licence fees, charges and levies it is legally entitled to collect.

## **16. ACCOMMODATION OF FUTURE CHANGES**

### **16.1 Outsourcing of Infrastructure Management**

In the event that the Municipality assigns the task of infrastructure management to a third party the Municipality will ensure that:

- (a) its contracts for such infrastructure management contain provisions that will allow the Municipality to meet its obligations under and to comply with the terms and conditions of, this Agreement, and
- (b) FortisBC will accept the appointment of such third party as the Municipality's agent or subcontractor to enable such third party to deal directly with FortisBC so as to enable the Municipality to comply with the terms, obligations and conditions of this Agreement.

### **16.2 Changes to the Community Charter**

In the event that the provisions of the *Community Charter* or other legislation affecting the rights and powers of municipalities change in such a way as to materially, in the opinion of the Municipality, affect municipal powers in respect to matters dealt with in this Agreement,

- (a) the Municipality may within one year of the change coming into effect propose new agreement terms with respect to only those specific changes and FortisBC agrees to negotiate such terms; and
- (b) failing satisfactory resolution of the terms of the Agreement either of the parties may seek resolution through the Dispute Resolution Process, Section 17.

### **16.3 Changes to the Utilities Commission Act**

In the event that the provisions of the *Utilities Commission Act* or other legislation affecting the rights and powers of regulated Utilities change in such a way as to materially, in FortisBC's opinion, affect FortisBC's powers in respect to matters dealt with in this Agreement,

- (a) FortisBC may within one year of the change coming into effect propose new agreement terms with respect to only those specific changes and the Municipality agrees to negotiate such terms; and
- (b) failing satisfactory resolution either of the parties will seek resolution through the Dispute Resolution Process, Section 17.

## **17. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **17.1 Mediation**

Where any dispute arises out of or in connection with this Agreement, including failure of the parties to reach agreement on any matter arising in connection with this Agreement, the parties agree to try to resolve the dispute by participating in a structured mediation conference with a mediator under the Rules of Procedure for Commercial Mediation of The Canadian Foundation for Dispute Resolution.

### **17.2 Referral to the BCUC or Arbitration**

If the parties fail to resolve the dispute through mediation, the unresolved dispute shall be referred to the BCUC if within its jurisdiction. If the matter is not within the jurisdiction of the BCUC, such unresolved dispute shall be referred to, and finally resolved or determined by arbitration under the Rules of Procedure for Commercial Arbitration of The Canadian Foundation for Dispute Resolution. Unless the parties agree otherwise the arbitration will be conducted by a single arbitrator.

### **17.3 Additional Rules of Arbitration**

The arbitrator shall issue a written award that sets forth the essential findings and conclusions on which the award is based. The arbitrator will allow discovery as required by the *Commercial Arbitration Act* of British Columbia in arbitration proceedings.

### **17.4 Appointment of Arbitrator**

If the arbitrator fails to render a decision within thirty (30) days following the final hearing of the arbitration, any party to the arbitration may terminate the appointment of the arbitrator and a new arbitrator shall be appointed in accordance with these provisions. If the parties are unable to agree on an arbitrator or if the appointment of an arbitrator is terminated in the manner provided for above, then any party to Agreement shall be entitled to apply to a judge of the British Columbia Supreme Court to appoint an arbitrator and the arbitrator so appointed shall proceed to determine the matter *mutatis mutandis* in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

### **17.5 Award of Arbitrator**

The arbitrator shall have the authority to award:

- (a) money damages;
- (b) interest on unpaid amounts from the date due;
- (c) specific performance; and
- (d) permanent relief.

### **17.6 Cost of Arbitration**

The costs and expenses of the arbitration, but not those incurred by the parties, shall be shared equally, unless the arbitrator determines that a specific party prevailed. In such a case, the non-prevailing party shall pay all costs and expenses of the arbitration, but not those of the prevailing party.

### **17.7 Continuation of Obligations**

The parties will continue to fulfill their respective obligations pursuant to this Agreement during the resolution of any dispute in accordance with this Section 17, provided that, neither party shall proceed with any work or activity or take any further action which is the subject matter of the dispute.

## **18. GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS**

### **18.1 No Liens**

FortisBC will do its best to not allow, suffer or permit any liens to be registered against the Company Facilities located in Public Places as a result of the conduct of FortisBC. If any such liens are registered, FortisBC will start action to clear any lien so registered to the Public Place within ten (10) days of being made aware such lien has been registered. FortisBC will keep the Municipality advised as to the status of the lien on a regular basis. In the event that such liens are not removed within ninety (90) days of the registration of such lien, FortisBC will pay them in full or post sufficient security to ensure they are discharged from title.

### **18.2 Corporate Authority**

FortisBC now warrants, represents and acknowledges that:

- (a) it has the full right, power and authority to enter into this Agreement;
- (b) it is a corporation, duly organized, legally existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation or continuance and is lawfully registered and licensed to do business in British Columbia.

### **18.3 Representations**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed in any way or for any purpose to constitute either party as the legal representative, agent, partner or joint venturer of the other, nor shall either party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against, in the name of, or on behalf of the other party.

### **18.4 Assignments and Enurement**

This Agreement and any rights or obligations under it are not assignable by either party, without the prior written consent of the other party hereto, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld. This Agreement shall be binding upon, enure to the benefit of, and be enforceable by, the successors and permitted assigns of the parties hereto.

### **18.5 Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia.

### **18.6 General**

This Agreement is subject to the laws of Province of British Columbia and the applicable laws of Canada, and nothing in this Agreement will be deemed to exclude the application of the provisions of such laws, or regulations thereunder.

### **18.7 Entire Agreement**

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the parties with respect to the subject matter herein contained and supersedes all prior agreements and undertakings with respect thereto.

### **18.8 Severability**

If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid by any court, governmental agency or regulatory body, the other provisions to the extent permitted by law shall remain in full force and effect. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the parties hereby waive any provision of law that renders any provision hereof prohibitive or unenforceable in any respect.

### **18.9 Force Majeure**

Neither party shall be liable to the other for temporary failure to perform hereunder, if such failure is caused by reason of an Act of God, labour dispute, strike, temporary breakdown of facilities, fire, flood, government order or regulations, civil disturbance, non-delivery by program suppliers or others, or any other cause beyond the parties' respective control.

### 18.10 Notice

Any notice or other written communication required, or permitted to be made or given pursuant to this Agreement (the "Notice") shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been validly given if delivered in person or transmitted electronically and acknowledged by the respective parties as follows:

A) if to the Municipality:

VILLAGE OF KEREMEOS  
702-4<sup>th</sup> Street Box 160  
Keremeos, BC V0X 1N0

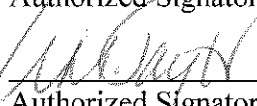
(B) If to FortisBC:

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.  
16705 Fraser Highway  
Surrey, B.C. V4N 0E8  
Attention: Director, Regulatory Affairs

#### VILLAGE OF KEREMEOS

by its authorized signatories

  
Authorized Signatory MANFRED BAUER, Mayor

  
Authorized Signatory LAURIE TAYLOR, CAO

#### FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

by its authorized signatories

  
Authorized Signatory

**D.L. Stout, Vice-President**  
Energy Solutions &  
External Relations

Authorized Signatory



ERICA HAMILTON  
COMMISSION SECRETARY  
Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com  
web site: <http://www.bcuc.com>

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250  
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA V6Z 2N3  
TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700  
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385  
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

Log No. 47855

**VIA EMAIL**

gas.regulatory.affairs@fortisbc.com

July 10, 2014

Ms. Diane Roy  
Director, Regulatory Affairs  
FortisBC Energy Inc.  
16705 Fraser Highway  
Surrey, BC V4N 0E8

Dear Ms. Roy:

Re: FortisBC Energy Inc.  
Operating Agreement with the Village of Keremeos

Further to your May 27, 2014 filing of an Operating Agreement with the Village of Keremeos, enclosed please find Commission Order C-7-14.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erica Hamilton".

Erica Hamilton

cms  
Enclosure

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250  
VANCOUVER, BC V6Z 2N3 CANADA  
web site: <http://www.bcuc.com>



**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER  
NUMBER C-7-14**

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700  
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385  
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

IN THE MATTER OF  
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

FortisBC Energy Inc.  
Application for Approval of an Operating Agreement with the Village of Keremeos

**BEFORE:**

L.F. Kelsey, Commissioner  
C.A. Brown, Commissioner  
H.G. Harowitz, Commissioner  
K.A. Keilty, Commissioner  
N.E. MacMurchy, Commissioner  
I.F. MacPhail, Commissioner  
B.A. Magnan, Commissioner  
D.M. Morton, Commissioner

July 10, 2014

**CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI), formerly known as BC Gas Utility Ltd. and Terasen Gas Inc., and the Village of Keremeos entered into a Standard Form Franchise Agreement dated October 16, 1993 (Franchise Agreement);
- B. Commission Order C-6-94 approved the Franchise Agreement;
- C. In Order and Decision G-113-12 the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) ordered that amendments in the Operating Agreement between FEI and the District of Coldstream be incorporated into future operating agreements between FEI and municipalities;
- D. On May 27, 2014, FEI applied to the Commission for approval of an Operating Agreement between FEI and the Village of Keremeos, effective April 1, 2014 (Application); and
- E. The Commission reviewed the Application and considers that approval is warranted.

**NOW THEREFORE** pursuant to section 45 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the British Columbia Utilities Commission approves the Operating Agreement between FortisBC Energy Inc. and the Village of Keremeos, as filed.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 10<sup>TH</sup> of July 2014.

BY ORDER

  
D.M. Morton  
Commissioner