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March 16, 2022

Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce
5500 Alaska Highway
PO Box 196
Fort Nelson, BC V0C 1R0

Attention: Ms. Bev Vandersteen

Dear Ms. Vandersteen:

Re: FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI)
Project No. 1599246

Application for Common Rates and 2022 Revenue Requirements for the Fort Nelson Service Area (Application)

FEI Information Request (IR) No. 1 on Intervener Evidence to Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce (FNDCC)

In accordance with the regulatory timetable established in British Columbia Utilities Commission Order G-20-22 for the review of the above noted Application, FEI respectfully submits IR No. 1 to FNDCC.

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) Application for Common Rates and 2022 Revenue Requirements for the Fort Nelson Service Area (Application)	Submission Date: March 16, 2022
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1 **Opposition to Application**

2 **1.0 Pages 1 and 5 of Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce Intervener Evidence**
3 **on Common Rates (FNDCC Evidence)**

4 FNDCC's Evidence states:

5 "The Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the above noted
6 application."

7 1.1 Are there any modifications that FEI could make to its common rates proposal
8 which would change the position of FNDCC with respect to common rates? If yes,
9 please explain what those modifications would be.

10

11 **Trade-off Between Commercial Rates and Residential Rates**

12 **2.0 Pages 1 to 2 of FNDCC Evidence**

13 FNDCC's Evidence states:

14 "FortisBC highlights that its proposal will reduce commercial rates and only increase
15 residential rates, but this fails to recognize that in Fort Nelson business owners are also
16 residents and at the end of the day FortisBC will collect \$150,000 more annually from rate
17 payers in Fort Nelson based on current usage. The same people will be paying both rates,
18 and any perceived tradeoffs are artificial."

19 2.1 Please confirm that FNDCC's reference to \$150,000 is based on the sum of the
20 Incremental Delivery Margin Impacts (rounded to \$150,000) provided in the
21 response to FNDCC-NRRM IR1 15.2 (i.e., \$319,000 - \$132,000 - \$30,000 =
22 \$157,000).

23

24 **BC Hydro's Heat Pump Rebates for Fuel Switching**

25 **3.0 Page 2 of FNDCC Evidence**

26 FNDCC's Evidence states:

27 "Fort Nelson is also unable to take advantage of alternative energy such as heat pumps
28 and electrical heating. Is it mechanically possible? Perhaps. Is it practical? No. Local
29 electricity demand is small, with most of the community relying heavily on natural gas for

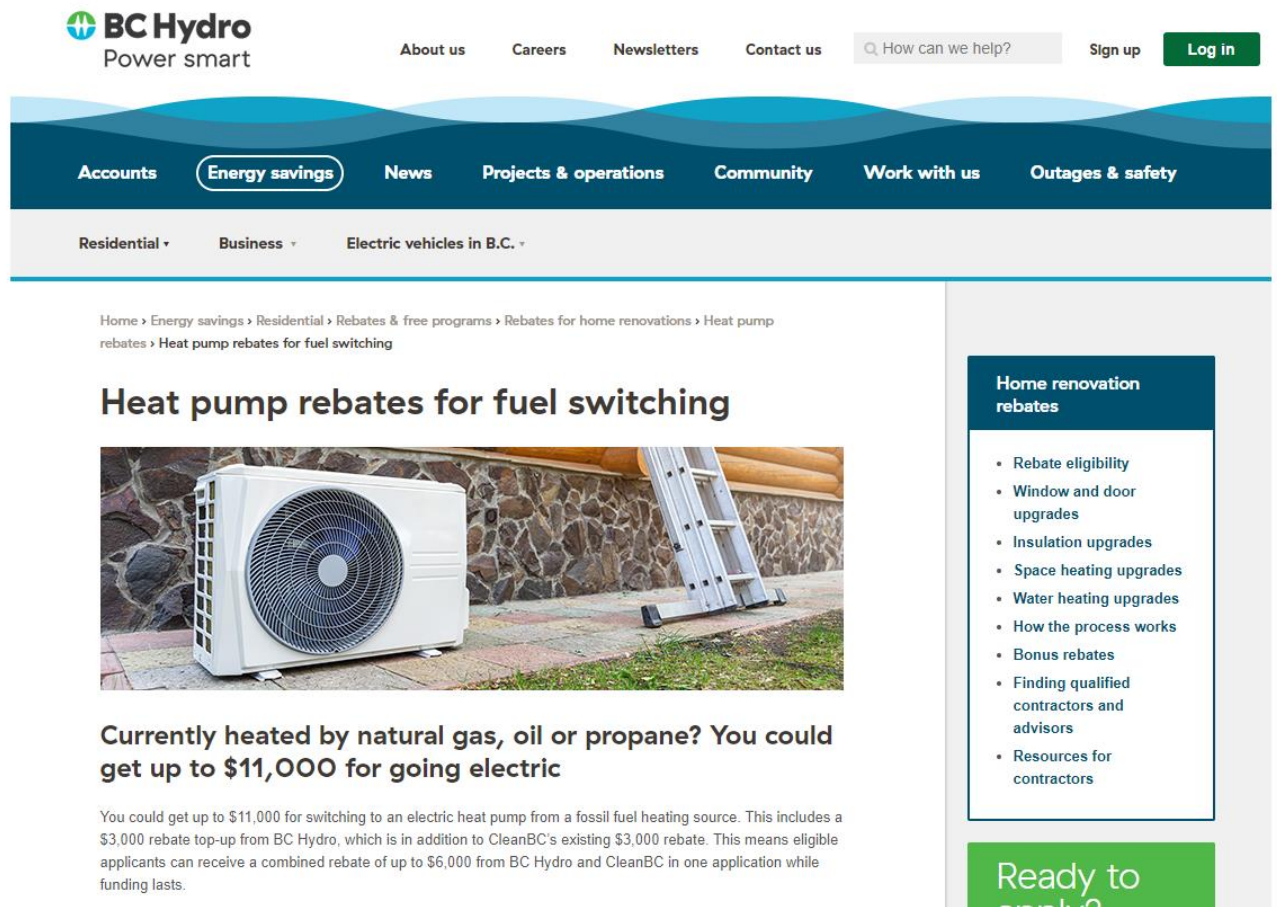
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1 heating. With some of the coldest temperatures for the longest period of time annually in
 2 British Columbia heat is not optional. Not taking into account the increase in electricity it
 3 would take to heat an average home and simply converting actual gigajoules used in gas
 4 against a conversion to kilowatt hours this is what it would look like for the average home
 5 owner based on an actual FEFN homeowners FortisBC billing from December 2021 to
 6 Jan 2022.”

7 Below is the rebate available from BC Hydro for fuel switching from natural gas to heat
 8 pump:

9 [https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/rebates-programs/home-
 renovation/renovating-heating-system/fuel-switching.html](https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/rebates-programs/home-

 10 renovation/renovating-heating-system/fuel-switching.html)



The screenshot shows the BC Hydro website page for 'Heat pump rebates for fuel switching'. The page features a navigation bar with 'Energy savings' highlighted, and a breadcrumb trail: Home > Energy savings > Residential > Rebates & free programs > Rebates for home renovations > Heat pump rebates > Heat pump rebates for fuel switching. The main heading is 'Heat pump rebates for fuel switching', accompanied by an image of an outdoor heat pump unit. Below the image, the text reads: 'Currently heated by natural gas, oil or propane? You could get up to \$11,000 for going electric'. A detailed paragraph explains the rebate structure: 'You could get up to \$11,000 for switching to an electric heat pump from a fossil fuel heating source. This includes a \$3,000 rebate top-up from BC Hydro, which is in addition to CleanBC's existing \$3,000 rebate. This means eligible applicants can receive a combined rebate of up to \$6,000 from BC Hydro and CleanBC in one application while funding lasts.' On the right side, there is a sidebar titled 'Home renovation rebates' with a list of categories: Rebate eligibility, Window and door upgrades, Insulation upgrades, Space heating upgrades, Water heating upgrades, How the process works, Bonus rebates, Finding qualified contractors and advisors, and Resources for contractors. At the bottom right, a green button says 'Ready to apply?'.



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1 3.1 Please confirm the BC Hydro and CleanBC incentives of up to \$11,000 for fuel
2 switching to electric heat pumps are available to residences of Fort Nelson.

3

4 **BC Hydro Rates in Fort Nelson**

5 **4.0 Page 4 of FNDCC Evidence**

6 FNDCC's Evidence states:

7 "We note as well that Fort Nelson is not connected to BC Hydro's grid. Instead, there is a
8 local gas-fired generator that can provide local service, and Fort Nelson is connected to
9 Alberta's electricity system by transmission line."

10 4.1 Please confirm that, as shown on page 1-9 of BC Hydro's Electric Tariff (PDF page
11 19),¹ both Fort Nelson and BC Hydro's integrated service area are included in BC
12 Hydro's Rate Zone 1.

13

14 **FEI's Consultation**

15 **5.0 Page 4 of FNDCC Evidence**

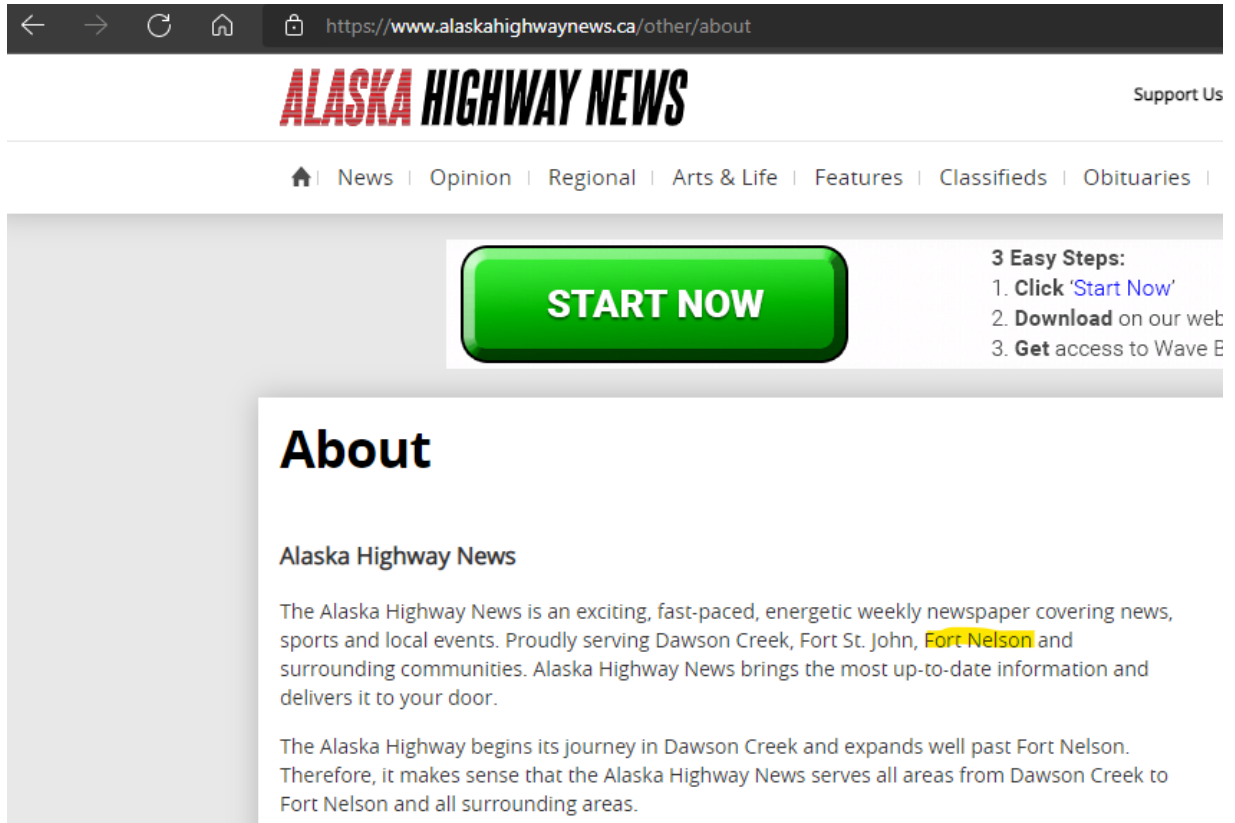
16 FNDCC's Evidence states:

17 "As part of the application FortisBC notes it undertook media outreach efforts; however
18 note that the media outreach was to the Alaska Hwy News, a newspaper in Fort St John
19 not Fort Nelson."

20 Below is a screen capture of the website of the Alaska Highway News:

¹ Available online: <https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/corporate/tariff-filings/electric-tariff/bchydro-electric-tariff.pdf>

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/other/about>. The page features the "ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS" logo and a navigation menu with links for News, Opinion, Regional, Arts & Life, Features, Classifieds, and Obituaries. A prominent green button labeled "START NOW" is displayed. To the right of the button, a section titled "3 Easy Steps:" lists the following instructions: 1. Click 'Start Now', 2. Download on our web, and 3. Get access to Wave E. Below this, the "About" section is visible, starting with the heading "Alaska Highway News" and a paragraph describing the newspaper's focus on Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, and surrounding communities. A second paragraph states that the Alaska Highway begins its journey in Dawson Creek and expands well past Fort Nelson, serving all areas from Dawson Creek to Fort Nelson and all surrounding areas.

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2
3
4

5.1 Please confirm the Alaska Highway News also serves Fort Nelson, as indicated in the above screen capture from the Alaska Highway News website.