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June 15, 2023

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC
V6Z 2N3

Attention: Patrick Wruck, Commission Secretary

Dear Patrick Wruck:

Re: FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI)
2024-2027 Demand-Side Management (DSM) Expenditures Plan Application – Proposed Process and Timetable

FEI writes to notify the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) that it expects to file its 2024-2027 DSM Expenditures Plan Application (Application) by no later than July 14, 2023, subject to the signing of amendments to the *Demand-Side Measures Regulation* (DSM Regulation). In order to allow for the timely review of the Application, FEI respectfully requests that the BCUC strike a Panel to review the Application and set a regulatory timetable for the proceeding, prior to the filing of the Application.

FEI has been delayed in filing the Application due to the need to wait for the amendments to the DSM Regulation to be issued. As the BCUC is aware from FEI's previous DSM application proceeding, the amendments to the DSM Regulation are expected to have a significant impact on FEI's DSM portfolio. For this reason, in the previous DSM proceeding, FEI requested and received acceptance of only a one-year DSM plan, for 2023. The result of waiting for the amendments before filing for acceptance of any further DSM expenditures is that FEI will be filing the Application much later in the year than it otherwise would have, which will make it challenging to receive a decision on the Application before the beginning of the DSM Plan, on January 1, 2024.

FEI considers that it is of utmost importance that it be able to continue to deliver DSM programs to its customers without interruption so that FEI does not lose traction in the market. In particular, it is important that FEI's DSM programs be in the market in the first few months of the calendar year when contractors and suppliers typically market DSM offers, and customers begin to make plans for the year. If FEI's DSM programs are interrupted, ramping up expenditures will take more time, and energy savings and emissions reductions opportunities will be lost.

Therefore, FEI is proposing a regulatory timetable for review of the Application as set out below, with the objective of allowing the BCUC to issue a decision by the end of 2023. FEI notes that this regulatory process is in alignment with the regulatory process for FortisBC Inc.'s (FBC) 2023-2027 DSM Expenditures Plan Application, which also only had one round of information requests (IRs). Consistent with past DSM applications, FEI has and will be conducting stakeholder consultation on its Application, including with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Advisory Group (EECAG), prior to filing the Application with the BCUC.

Action	Date (2023)
Application Filing (on or before)	Friday, July 14
Registration of Interveners	Friday, July 21
BCUC IR No. 1	Thursday, August 3
Intervener IR No. 1	Thursday, August 10
FEI Response to IRs No. 1	Friday, September 1
FEI Written Final Submission	Wednesday, September 20
Intervener Written Final Submission	Monday, October 16
FEI Written Reply Submission	Monday, November 6

While unfortunate, external events impact the regulatory process from time to time and FEI appreciates the BCUC's past efforts to provide for a regulatory process that can accommodate such events, such as the review process for the Pattullo Gasline Replacement CPCN to accommodate the Province's Pattullo Bridge replacement timelines.

FEI respectfully requests that the BCUC appoint a Panel and issue the procedural order setting out the regulatory timetable as soon as possible to allow ample time for parties planning to register as interveners in the proceeding. A draft form of procedural order is attached in Appendix A.

If further information is required, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

Original signed:

Sarah Walsh

Attachment

cc (email only): Energy Efficiency and Conservation Advisory Group
Registered Interveners in FEI's 2023 DSM Expenditures Proceeding
Registered Interveners in FEI's Annual Review for 2023 Rates Proceeding

Appendix A

DRAFT PROCEDURAL ORDER



ORDER NUMBER

G-xx-xx

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

FortisBC Energy Inc.
Application for Acceptance of 2024-2027 Demand Side Management Expenditures Plan

BEFORE:

[Panel Chair]
Commissioner
Commissioner

on Date

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. By letter dated June 15, 2023, FEI requested that the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) appoint a Panel and issue a procedural order for the review of its upcoming Application for Acceptance of Demand-Side Management (DSM) Expenditures Plan for the period covering 2024 to 2027 (DSM Plan); and
- B. The BCUC reviewed FEI's request and considers that establishment of a regulatory timetable is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE the BCUC orders as follows:

1. A regulatory timetable for the review of FEI's upcoming Application for Acceptance of its 2024 to 2027 DSM Expenditures Plan is established as set out in Appendix A to this order.
2. FEI is directed to publish this order and the regulatory timetable on its website and provide a copy of this order by Friday, July 14, 2023, electronically where possible, to the following:
 - a. members of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Advisory Group;
 - b. registered interveners in the FEI Annual Review for 2023 Delivery Rates Proceeding; and
 - c. registered interveners in the FEI 2023 DSM Expenditures Proceeding.
3. In accordance with the BCUC's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#), parties who wish to actively participate in this proceeding must submit the [Request to Intervene Form](#), available on the BCUC's website at <https://www.bcuc.com/GetInvolved/GetInvolvedProceeding>, by Friday, July 21, 2023, as established in the

regulatory timetable. Parties may also submit letters of comment by completing a [Letter of Comment Form](#), available on the BCUC's website.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this (XX) day of (Month Year).

BY ORDER

(X. X. last name)
Commissioner

Attachment

FortisBC Energy Inc.
2024 -2027 Demand-Side Management Expenditures Plan Application

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2023)
FEI filing of Application	Friday, July 14
Intervener registration	Friday, July 21
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