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November 27, 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)

Application for Approval of an Operating Agreement between the Corporation of the City of Merritt (City of Merritt) and FEI

FEI has entered into a new Operating Agreement dated November 15, 2023 with the City of Merritt (FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement), for which FEI is requesting approval from the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), pursuant to section 23(1)(g) of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), effective January 1, 2024. A copy of the executed FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement is provided in Appendix A.

City of Merritt is an Interior Municipality with an Expiring Operating Agreement

By Order C-15-03, dated November 27, 2003, the BCUC approved the current Operating Agreement between FEI (through its predecessor company Terasen Gas Inc.) and the City of Merritt. The term of the existing Operating Agreement is set to expire on December 31, 2023. A copy of the expiring Operating Agreement is provided in Appendix B.

The FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement is Based on the Identical Terms as the FEI-Keremeos Operating Agreement

The FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement is consistent with the approved terms of the Village of Keremeos Operating Agreement¹ (the Keremeos Terms).

The only changes in the FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement as compared to the Keremeos Terms are to make six very minor corrections. Three of the changes are to make typographical corrections to reflect the original intent or make dates more current. The remaining three are consistent with revisions to the City of Kelowna Operating Agreement directed by the BCUC in Order G-81-19 and later approved by Order G-99-19, which include an update to referenced applicable legislation, addition of clarifying language, and an update to reference the

¹ Order C-8-14, dated July 24, 2014, approved the Village of Keremeos terms to be the basis for comparison in future operating agreement applications.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute of Canada, Inc. The following summarizes the six changes that have been made to the FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement as compared to the Keremeos Terms:

1. **Section 6.2**, third line, capitalization of utilities:
 - "...the Municipality's utilities..." now reads "...the Municipality's Utilities..."
2. **Section 6.4.1**, last line of the second paragraph, replacing "or" with "of":
 - "...non-use and want or repair." now reads "...non-use and want of repair."
3. **Section 11.1.1**, addition of clarifying language to reflect that the operating fee is not collected on revenues from Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) services.
4. **Section 11.2**, last two lines of the paragraph, to update the years in the example to be more current:
 - "...on March 1, 2014 will be the amount received during the 2013 calendar year." now reads "...on March 1, 2018 will be the amount received during the 2017 calendar year..."
5. **Section 13.1.3**, line 4, update to current legislation
 - "...Gas Safety Act,..." with "...*Safety Standards Act*,..."
6. **Sections 17.1 and 17.2**, replaced reference to the Rules of Procedure of the Canadian Foundation for Dispute Resolution with the ADR Institute of Canada, Inc.

To assist the BCUC with its review, Appendix C contains a blacklined version showing all of the revisions to the FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement as compared to the Keremeos Terms.

Order Sought

Given the existing Operating Agreement expires on December 31, 2023, FEI requests approval from the BCUC, pursuant to section 23(1)(g) of the UCA, of the executed FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement on a permanent basis effective January 1, 2024. Should the BCUC be unable to issue its final decision prior to expiry of the existing Operating Agreement, FEI requests approval of the FEI-Merritt Operating Agreement on an interim basis effective January 1, 2024, pursuant to section 89 of the UCA. A draft form of final Order is provided in Appendix D.

If further information is required, please contact Ilva Bevacqua, Manager of Regulatory Compliance and Administration at (604) 592-7664.

Sincerely,

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

Original signed:

Sarah Walsh

Attachments

cc (email only): Linda Brick, City of Merritt, linda.brick@merritt.ca

Appendix A

FEI-CITY OF MERRITT OPERATING AGREEMENT

OPERATING AGREEMENT

THIS OPERATING AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") made this 15th day of Nov, 2023.

BETWEEN:

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MERRITT, 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 21st day of January, 2003 which has or will expire on December 31, 2023;
- 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 of 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 *Energy Resource 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, excluding all compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas distributed from fueling stations, the provision and delivery of all liquefied natural gas, and all gas consumed by customers from whom the BCUC has not allowed FortisBC to collect the fee, and 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, 2024 will be the amount received during the 2023 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 *Safety Standards Act*, *Energy Resource 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 the dispute shall be mediated pursuant to the National Mediation Rules of the ADR Institute of Canada, Inc.

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 by arbitration under the

Arbitration Rules of the ADR Institute of Canada, Inc. 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:

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MERRITT

Box 189

2185 Voght Street

Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

(B) If to FortisBC:

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

16705 Fraser Highway

Surrey, B.C. V4N 0E8

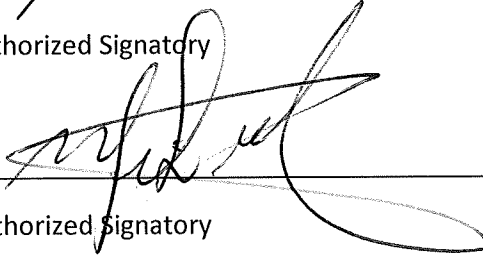
Attention: Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MERRITT

by its authorized signatories


CAO


Authorized Signatory



Authorized Signatory

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

by its authorized signatories


Doug Slater, Vice President
Indigenous Relations & Regulatory Affairs

Authorized Signatory

Authorized Signatory

Appendix B

FEI-CITY OF MERRITT EXPIRING OPERATING AGREEMENT

OPERATING AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made this 21ST day of JANUARY, 2003.

BETWEEN:

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MERRITT
Box 189
Merritt, B.C.
V1K 1B8**

AND:

**BC GAS UTILITY LTD.
1111 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6E 4M4**

OPERATING AGREEMENT

THIS OPERATING AGREEMENT made this 21st day of January, 2003.

BETWEEN:

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MERRITT
Box 189
Merritt, B.C.
V1K 1B8

(hereinafter called the "Municipality")

OF THE FIRST PART

AND:

BC Gas Utility Ltd., a body corporate duly incorporated under the laws of the Province of British Columbia, and having its registered office in the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia

(hereinafter called "BC Gas")

OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS by a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity BC Gas was granted the right to construct and operate gas distribution facilities within the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS BC Gas is in the business of transporting, distributing and supplying gas and other services within British Columbia; and distributes and supplies gas to consumers within the boundary limits of the Municipality.

AND WHEREAS BC Gas and the Municipality are the parties to a franchise agreement dated the 15th day of March, 1979 the terms of which have been extended by various amending agreements to December 31, 2002.

AND WHEREAS BC Gas and the Municipality wish to enter into this Agreement to clarify and settle the procedures and process under which BC Gas will exercise its right to construct and operate its gas distribution facilities 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 from time to time;
- (b) "BC Gas" means BC Gas Utility Ltd.;
- (c) "BCUC" means the British Columbia Utilities Commission or successor having regulatory jurisdiction over natural gas distribution utilities in British Columbia;
- (d) "Company" means BC Gas and those successors and assigns permitted by section 19 of this Agreement;
- (e) "Company Facilities" means facilities, including pipes, valves and other equipment within the boundary limits of the Municipality used by the Company for the purposes of its business but excludes buildings which are designed and used for commercial or office purposes;
- (f) "Public Places" means any public thoroughfare, highway, road, street, lane, alley, square, park, bridge, viaduct, subway, watercourse or other public place in the Municipality;
- (g) "Residential and Commercial gas consumers" means those gas consumers which receive gas service of the type described as of the date of this Agreement in the General Terms and Conditions of BC Gas as "Residential Service" or "Commercial Service". As of the date of this Agreement the General Terms and Conditions of BC Gas describe:
 - (i) "Residential Service" as "firm Gas Service provided to a Residential Premises";
 - (ii) "Commercial Service" as "the provision of firm Gas supplied to one delivery point and through one Meter Set for use in approved appliances in commercial, institutional or small industrial operations";
 - (iii) "Residential Premises" as "the Premises of a single Customer, whether single family dwelling, separately metered single-family townhouse, rowhouse, or apartment, or single-metered apartment blocks with four or less apartments";
 - (iv) "Premises" as "a building, a separate unit of a building, or machinery together with surrounding land";

- (v) "Customer" as "a Person who is being provided Service or who has filed an application for Service with BC Gas that has been approved by BC Gas";
- (vi) "Person" as "a natural person, partnership, corporation, society, unincorporated entity or body politic";
- (vii) "Service" as "the provision of Gas Service or other service by BC Gas";
- (viii) "Gas Service" as "the delivery of Gas through a Meter Set";
- (ix) "Meter Set" as "an assembly of BC Gas owned metering and ancillary equipment and piping";
- (x) "Gas" as "natural gas (including odorant added by BC Gas) and propane";
- (h) "Revision Date" means the January 1 that is at least 12 months after the date of the Unbundling Decision;
- (i) "Transmission Pipeline" means a pipeline of the Company having an operating pressure in excess of 2071 kilopascals; and
- (j) "Unbundling Decision" means a decision or order of the BCUC made after the date of this Agreement that implements measures that allow Residential and Commercial gas consumers in what at the time of execution of this Agreement is the Company's Inland service area to acquire gas commodity from entities other than the Company, and if there is more than one such decision it means the first such decision.

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; and
- (c) 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. USE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

In undertaking its work within the Municipality and exercising its right to the use of Public Places in the Municipality the Company, and the Company's officers,

employees, contractors and licensees, will limit damage to that reasonably required for the construction, installation, alteration, repair, maintenance or operation of the Company Facilities and will not cause obstruction beyond that reasonably required during the progress of the work, and will restore without unreasonable delay the Public Places in the Municipality to a state of repair or conditions as near as reasonable to that which existed immediately before the commencement of such work, and the Company will cause safeguards to be set up and maintained when any Public Places are broken up.

4. NOT TO INTERFERE WITH EXISTING FACILITIES

The Company Facilities will be placed, installed and constructed in such manner as not to interfere with any water or sewer line or any other pipe, conduit, duct, manhole or system belonging to the Municipality or which has been previously installed and is then located in any Public Places by, or with the permission or approval of the Municipality, or by virtue of a right granted by competent government or municipal authority.

5. COMPANY TO INDEMNIFY MUNICIPALITY

The Company agrees with the Municipality that it will protect, indemnify and save harmless the Municipality, its elected officials and employees, from and against actions, proceedings, claims and demands of any corporation or person against the Municipality and will reimburse the Municipality for all damage caused to the Municipality in respect of or by the execution by the Company of its right to construct and operate gas distribution facilities or by reason of the construction, installation, alteration, repair, maintenance or operation of the Company Facilities within the boundary limits of the Municipality, except to the extent caused by or contributed to by the negligence or default of the Municipality or its employees or agents. The Company further agrees that it will protect and indemnify the Municipality from and against claims, demands and actions by third persons in respect of damages sustained by them by reason of any operations of the Company in connection with the execution of its right to construct and operate gas distribution facilities or by reason of any operations of the Company in relation to the Company Facilities.

6. COORDINATION

Each of the parties acknowledges that its construction and maintenance activities may affect the other party and its facilities. Each party will carry out its construction and maintenance activities in a manner that is responsive to the effect that its activities will have on the other party and its facilities. During the term of this Agreement representatives of the Company and representatives of the Municipality will meet each year, as much in advance of the construction season as reasonable, to discuss the construction activities within the boundary limits of the Municipality that each party anticipates will occur during that year. The parties will make reasonable efforts to coordinate the anticipated construction and maintenance activities of both parties to avoid unnecessary breaking up of Public Places.

7. NOTICE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCIES

Unless otherwise agreed by the Municipality, the Company will give notice to the Municipality or such officer or official thereof who has been designated from time to time by the Municipality, of its intention to break up, dig, trench, open up or excavate any Public Places, not less than three days before the beginning of such work. Such notice need not be given in cases of repair, maintenance or the like that can reasonably be deemed to be emergencies or in the interests of the health or safety of the public, or the safety of property by whomsoever owned, in which cases no notice need be first given but will be given as soon as practicable thereafter.

8. TRANSMISSION PIPELINES

The Municipality will:

- (a) allow the Company to place identification pipeline markers within Public Places where a Transmission Pipeline crosses, or is within, a Public Place. The Company will be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the pipeline markers. The Municipality will take reasonable efforts to avoid damage to or removal of the pipeline markers, with the exception of construction or maintenance activities that require removal of the pipeline markers, in which event the Municipality will restore the pipeline markers to their original location as soon as practicable. The Municipality will make all reasonable efforts to notify the Company within 24 hours of any damage caused to a pipeline marker by the Municipality, its employees or its contractors; and
- (b) give notice to the Company of any work planned by the Municipality 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 the Company requires that a permit be issued by the Company for construction or other activities within a Transmission Pipeline right of way the Municipality will submit an application for such a permit to the Company in sufficient time for the application to be reviewed by the Company prior to the commencement of the construction or other activity by the Municipality.

9. SUBMISSION OF PLANS

Unless otherwise agreed by the Municipality, a plan and specifications showing the proposed location, depth and dimensions of Company facilities to be placed, installed or constructed upon, along, across, over or under any Public Places will be submitted to such officer or official as will be designated from time to time by the Municipality for that purpose, and Company facilities will not be placed, installed or constructed upon, along, across, over or under any Public Places without first submitting such plans and providing to such officer or official a reasonable time to review, comment on, and approve such plans, provided always that approval will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. If Company Facilities that at the time of construction were located in Public Places are later found not to be in compliance with the standards of the Municipality in effect at

the time of construction, then any alteration or upgrading required to bring them into compliance with those standards will be at the expense of the Company.

10. OTHER APPROVALS, PERMITS OR LICENSES

Except as specifically provided in this Agreement or as required by Provincial or Federal legislation, the Municipality will not require the Company to seek or obtain approvals, permits or licenses and the Municipality will not charge or levy against the Company any approval, license or permit fee, or fee or charge of any other type, that in any manner is related to or associated with the Company constructing, installing, renewing, altering, repairing, maintaining or operating Company Facilities (other than a Transmission Pipeline) upon, along, across, over or under any Public Places or in any manner related to or associated with the Company exercising the powers and rights granted to it by this Agreement. If, contrary to this Agreement, the Municipality does charge or levy against the Company any fee or charge then the Company may reduce the compensation otherwise payable to the Municipality under section 16 by an amount equal to any fees or charges charged to or levied against the Company.

11. NOTICE TO COMPANY OF MUNICIPAL WORKS

Before the Municipality undertakes any construction or maintenance activity which may in any manner affect a part of the Company Facilities, it will give to the Company written notice not less than 72 hours before commencing such construction or maintenance activity; except in cases of repair, maintenance or the like that can reasonably be deemed to be emergencies or in the interests of the health or safety of the public, or the safety of property by whomsoever owned, in which cases no notice need be first given but will be given as soon as practicable thereafter. The Company will be entitled to appoint at its cost a representative to observe and advise in respect to 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*, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 169, *Pipeline Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 364 and successor legislation, regulations thereunder and amendments thereto, nor do the provisions of this section relieve the Municipality of the requirements of the Workers' Compensation Board.

12. CLOSURE OF PUBLIC PLACES BY MUNICIPALITY

Should any of the Public Places under, over, across or upon which any of the Company Facilities are located be legally closed or alienated by the Municipality or by or under any other authority having such right then, unless the Company's rights to use those Public Places are maintained through a grant from the Municipality of a registered statutory right of way in a form satisfactory to the Company, the Municipality will promptly notify the Company and the Company agrees that with reasonable speed and dispatch after receipt of written notice from the Municipality, it will remove and (if possible and practicable) relocate those Company Facilities affected by such closure or alienation; the cost of such removal or relocation to be at the cost and expense of the Municipality unless such removal or relocation has been forced upon the Municipality by another authority without the Municipality having applied therefor.

13. ALTERATIONS TO WORK

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, if either party requests the other party to relocate or make other changes or alterations in the other party's pipes, facilities, equipment, or appliances installed under, over, across, upon or adjacent to Public Places in order to facilitate the installation or construction of new pipes, facilities, equipment, or appliances by the requesting party, the party receiving the request will, if it reasonably can, carry out the relocation, change or alteration requested and will charge the requesting party with the entire costs thereof. Such costs will include, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such overhead charges on labour and materials as may be from time to time charged by the party receiving the request, as well as all expenses and disbursements incurred in carrying out such relocation, change or alteration.

14. DAMAGE TO COMPANY FACILITIES

If the Municipality destroys or damages any of the Company Facilities under, over, across, upon, or adjacent to Public Places which were installed before or after the date of this Agreement the Municipality will bear the cost of repairing the damaged Company Facilities in such manner as to restore the Company Facilities to as good a state of repair as had existed prior to the occurrence of such damage or destruction. Where such damage results directly from inaccurate or incomplete information supplied by the Company, and the Municipality has complied with all applicable laws and regulations, and with instructions supplied by the Company, then the cost of repairing damaged Company Facilities will be at the expense of the Company.

15. DAMAGE TO MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

If the Company destroys or damages any facilities of the Municipality which were installed before or after the date of this Agreement the Company will bear the cost of repairing the damaged facilities of the Municipality in such manner as to restore the facilities of the Municipality to as good a state of repair as had existed prior to the occurrence of such damage or destruction. Where such damage results directly from inaccurate or incomplete information supplied by the Municipality, and the Company has complied with all applicable laws and regulations, and with instructions supplied by the Municipality, then the cost of repairing damaged municipal facilities will be at the expense of the Municipality.

16. FEE TO BE PAID TO MUNICIPALITY

During the term of this Agreement the Company will pay to the Municipality:

- (a) from the commencement of the term of this Agreement until the Revision Date or the expiry or termination of this Agreement, whichever is sooner:
 - (i) a fee of three percent of the amount received by the Company for the supply or delivery of gas consumed by Residential and Commercial gas consumers within the boundary limits of the municipality, but such amount will not include any amount

received by the Company for gas supplied or delivered for resale for consumption outside the boundary limits of the Municipality; and

- (ii) a fee of three percent of the amount received by the Company for the supply or delivery of gas consumed by gas consumers other than Residential and Commercial gas consumers within the boundary limits of the Municipality, but such amount will not include any amount received by the Company for gas supplied or delivered for resale for consumption outside the boundary limits of the Municipality;
- (b) if there is an Unbundling Decision the parties will negotiate in an attempt to agree on the fees to be paid by the Company to the Municipality from the Revision Date, and the fees to be paid by the Company to the Municipality from the Revision Date until the expiry or termination of this Agreement will be the fees determined as follows:
- (i) if within six months of the Unbundling Decision the parties agree that the fees to be paid from the Revision Date are the same as those set out in subsection 16 (a) above then those fees will continue to be paid by the Company to the Municipality from the Revision Date to the expiry or termination of this Agreement;
 - (ii) if within six months of the Unbundling Decision the parties agree that the fees to be paid from the Revision Date should differ from those set out in subsection 16 (a) above then the Company will apply to the BCUC for approval of the new level of fees and, to the extent required, the Municipality will apply for approval under the *Local Government Act*, and amendments thereto, and all other applicable legislation. If the approval of the BCUC and other required approvals are received within nine months of the Unbundling Decision then the new fees agreed between the parties will be paid by the Company to the Municipality from the Revision Date to the expiry or termination of this Agreement. If the approval of the BCUC or any other required approval is not received within nine months of the Unbundling Decision then it will be deemed that there is no agreement between the parties and the fees to be paid from the Revision Date will be determined pursuant to clause 16 (b) (iii) below; and
 - (iii) if within six months of the Unbundling Decision there is no agreement between the parties on the fees to be paid from the Revision Date then the Company will apply to the BCUC pursuant to section 32 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (or successor section) for an order allowing the Company to use the streets and other places of the Municipality. In that application the Company will seek to have, and the Municipality will support having, the terms of this Agreement (other than the fees to be paid by the Company to the Municipality set out in subsection 16 (a) above) as the terms under which the Company has use of the streets and

other places of the Municipality. The fees determined by the BCUC to be appropriate for allowing the Company to use the streets and other places of the Municipality will be the fees paid by the Company to the Municipality from the Revision Date to the expiry or termination of this Agreement.

Payments by the Company to the Municipality will be made on the first day of March in respect of amounts billed by the Company during that portion of the term of this Agreement which is in the immediately preceding calendar year.

The amounts payable by the Company to the Municipality under this section will not be, or be deemed to be, in lieu of taxes otherwise properly payable to the Municipality. The amounts payable by the Company to the Municipality under this section may be reduced pursuant to section 10 of this Agreement.

17. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement will commence on the 1st day of January, 2003 and will expire on the 31st day of December, 2023. All obligations of the parties which arise prior to the expiry or termination of this Agreement will survive such expiry or termination.

18. OWNERSHIP OF AND CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE COMPANY FACILITIES

Upon the expiry or termination of this Agreement the Company Facilities placed, installed or constructed within the boundary limits of the Municipality both before and after the date of this Agreement are, and will remain, the Company's property and those facilities may remain upon, along, across, over or under the Public Places in which they are located. The Company Facilities may continue to be used by the Company for the purposes of its business, or removed from Public Places in whole or in part at the Company's sole discretion. Upon the expiry or termination of this Agreement Public Places within the boundary limits of the Municipality may continue to be used by the Company for the purposes of its business, and for those purposes the Company by its officers, employees, contractors and licensees 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 or any additions thereto; provided that the Company will not leave any part of the Company Facilities in such a state as to constitute a nuisance or a danger to the public through neglect, non-use or want of repair. The Company and the Municipality will, six months before the expiry of the term of this Agreement, or immediately if this Agreement is terminated for any other reason, commence negotiations of the terms under which the Company may enter upon and use the Public Places within the boundary limits of the Municipality after the expiry or termination of this Agreement, and failing agreement the terms will be set by the BCUC.

19. ASSIGNMENT

This Agreement is assignable by the Company to an affiliate or a successor, or any person or company to whom the Company sells or assigns an interest in the

Company Facilities within the boundary limits of the Municipality, without consent of the Municipality, but otherwise will only be assignable by the Company with the consent in writing of the Municipality, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld. Subject of the foregoing, this Agreement will enure to the benefit of and be binding on the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.

20. **RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

If any dispute, difference or question occurs between the parties arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, or if the parties are unable to agree with respect to any matter arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, then every such dispute, difference or question, if within the jurisdiction of the BCUC will be determined by the BCUC, and if not within such jurisdiction will be referred to arbitration pursuant to the *Commercial Arbitration Act* or successor legislation.

21. **NOTICE**

Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement to be effective must be in writing and delivered, or transmitted by facsimile, and addressed as follows:

- (a) if given to the Municipality:

The Corporation Of The City Of Merritt
Box 189
Merritt, B.C.
V1K 1B8

Attention: City Clerk

Fax: (250) 378-2600

- (b) if given to the Company:

BC Gas Utility Ltd.
1111 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6E 4M4

Attention: Corporate Secretary

Fax: (604) 443-6630

or to such other address or addresses as the party to whom such notice is to be given has last notified the party giving the same in the manner provided in this section. Any notice delivered to the party to whom it is addressed will be deemed to have been given and received on the day it is so delivered at such address, provided that if such day is not a business day, then the notice will be deemed to have been given and received on the next business day following such day. Any

notice transmitted by facsimile will be deemed to have been given and received on the next business day after its transmission.

22. AGREEMENT SUBJECT TO LAW

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, nor will anything in this Agreement be deemed to be a waiver or abandonment by the Company or the Municipality of any right, privilege, or benefit conferred upon it by such laws or regulations thereunder.

23. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of this Agreement will not be affected and every other provision and section of this Agreement will remain in force and effect.

24. AMENDMENT

This Agreement may only be amended by written agreement of the parties.

25. AGREEMENT NOT BINDING UNTIL APPROVED

Except as specifically provided below in this section, this Agreement will not come into effect and does not bind the parties until the following conditions have been fulfilled:

- (a) BC Gas has obtained such approvals of this Agreement, or its terms, as may be required under the *Utilities Commission Act*; and
- (b) the Municipality has completed all procedures, obtained all consents and enacted and brought into force all by-laws required under the *Local Government Act*, and amendments thereto, and all other applicable legislation, to approve and authorize this Agreement.

These conditions may only be waived by written agreement of the parties.

Upon executing this Agreement this paragraph comes into effect and the parties are thereby obligated to make reasonable efforts to fulfill the conditions set out in this section. If the conditions are not fulfilled or waived within six months of the execution of this Agreement, or such later date as the parties may agree in writing, then the obligation on the parties to make reasonable efforts to fulfill the conditions will terminate, and neither party will have any further obligation to the other under this Agreement.

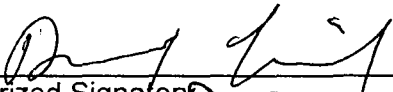
26. TERMINATION OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

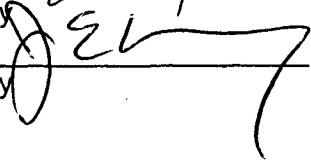
If not already terminated or expired, any franchise agreement between the Municipality and BC Gas and any franchise agreement between the Municipality

and Inland Natural Gas Co. Ltd. (which has been amalgamated into BC Gas) is terminated as of the date that this Agreement is effective and binds the parties.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have caused their respective seals to be affixed below, attested to by the signatures of persons authorized in that behalf.

The Municipal Seal of **The City of Merritt**)
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:)


_____)
Authorized Signatory)


_____)
Authorized Signatory)

THE Common Seal of **BC Gas Utility**)
Ltd. was hereunto affixed in the presence)
of:)

 **D. ZERR**
_____)
Authorized Signatory)

_____)
Authorized Signatory)

Appendix C

**FEI-CITY OF MERRITT OPERATING AGREEMENT
BLACKLINED AS COMPARED TO THE KEREMEOS TERMS**

OPERATING AGREEMENT

THIS OPERATING AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") made this _____ day of _____, ~~2014~~2023.

BETWEEN:

~~VILLAGE~~THE CORPORATION OF ~~KEREMEOS~~THE CITY OF MERRITT, 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~~21st day of ~~September~~January, ~~1993~~2003 which has or will expire on ~~October 15~~December 31, ~~2014~~2023;
- 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~~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 ~~of~~of 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~~[Energy Resource 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, excluding all compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas distributed from fueling stations, the provision and delivery of all liquefied natural gas, and all gas consumed by customers from whom the BCUC has not allowed FortisBC to collect the fee, and 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~~2024 will be the amount received during the ~~2013~~2023 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 Standards Act*, ~~Oil and Gas~~ *Energy Resource 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~~ shall be mediated pursuant to the [National Mediation Rules of Procedure for Commercial Mediation of The Canadian Foundation for Dispute Resolution](#) ~~the ADR Institute of Canada, Inc.~~

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~~ [Rules of the ADR Institute of Canada, Inc.](#) 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~~

~~702-4th~~ THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MERRITT

Box 189

2185 Voght Street ~~Box 160~~

~~Keremeos~~ Merritt, BC V ~~0X1K 1N0B8~~

- (B) If to FortisBC:

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

16705 Fraser Highway

Surrey, B.C. V4N 0E8

Attention: ~~Director~~ Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

~~VILLAGE OF KEREMEOS~~
THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MERRITT

by its authorized signatories

Authorized Signatory

Authorized Signatory

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

by its authorized signatories

Authorized Signatory

Authorized Signatory

Document comparison by Workshare Compare on Tuesday, November 21, 2023
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Legend:	
Insertion	
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Moved deletion	
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Moved cell	
Split/Merged cell	
Padding cell	

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Deletions	36
Moved from	0
Moved to	0
Style changes	0

Format changes	0
Total changes	68

Appendix D
DRAFT ORDER



ORDER NUMBER

G-xx-xx

IN THE MATTER OF

the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

FortisBC Energy Inc.

Application for Approval of an Operating Agreement

Between the Corporation of the City of Merritt and FortisBC Energy Inc.

BEFORE:

[Panel Chair]
Commissioner
Commissioner

on **Date**

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On November 27, 2023, FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), pursuant to section 23(1)(g) of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), for approval of an operating agreement dated November 15, 2023 (FEI- Merritt Operating Agreement) between the Corporation of the City of Merritt (Merritt) and FEI effective January 1, 2024 (Application);
- B. By Order C-15-03, dated November 27, 2003, the BCUC accepted the current Operating Agreement and Addendum between FEI (then Terasen Gas Inc.) and Merritt for a period of 21 years, expiring on December 31, 2023; and
- C. The BCUC has reviewed the Application and determines that approval is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to section 23(1)(g) of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the BCUC orders that the FEI- Merritt Operating Agreement, dated November 15, 2023, between FEI and Merritt is approved on a permanent basis, effective January 1, 2024.

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