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December 2, 2024

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 a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for
the Okanagan Capacity Mitigation Project (OCMP or Project) (Application)
Consultation and Communication Activities Update**

FEI writes in accordance with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) letter dated November 8, 2024 (Letter) in the above referenced proceeding.¹ In its Letter, the BCUC requested that FEI file an update with the BCUC detailing its consultation and communication activities, including the issues raised at the information session scheduled for November 25, 2024, and FEI's responses or planned follow up.

In Section 8 of the Application and in responses to information requests (IRs), FEI described its consultation and engagement activities undertaken leading up to the filing of the Application, and its plans for future consultation and engagement. In response to RCIA IR1 10.4, FEI also provided its consultation log.² FEI has updated the consultation log to include activities that have taken place since the response to RCIA IR1 10.4 was filed, including the November 25, 2024 information session (Appendix A to this letter). FEI has also provided its communications log (Appendix B to this letter), to describe FEI's promotion of the information session and accompanying media coverage.

¹ Exhibit A-5.

² Exhibit B-8, RCIA IR1 10.4, Attachment 10.4.

With respect to the information session, 19 people attended with six individuals filling out a feedback form. Many of the comments on the feedback form thanked FEI for hosting and providing area residents with relevant information on the OCMP. FEI had numerous OCMP staff in attendance to ensure the public had opportunities for one-on-one conversations with subject matter experts. Most of the interactions were positive. Concerns raised included: aesthetics and visual screening; noise; traffic; safety; concern over the longer-term implications of advancing the OCMP instead of a pipeline option; and concerns over the emissions associated with natural gas usage. Below is a summary of the concerns, and FEI's response, including any commitments made.

Aesthetics

Some session attendees expressed concerns regarding aesthetic impacts of the OCMP, in particular visual impacts to the Project area. FEI responded that mitigation options for aesthetic impacts will be considered in the OCMP design and planning phase, specifically around visually screening the Project site from the street level along Spall Road. FEI intends to engage with area residents regarding visual screening options during the OCMP execution phase.

Noise

Some session attendees asked questions regarding potential increases in noise from the OCMP construction and operation. FEI responded that a baseline acoustic study will be conducted to better understand how the OCMP would impact noise levels at the Project area during facility operation, and that depending upon the study results, FEI may look at possible noise mitigation options, if needed.

Traffic

Some session attendees were concerned with traffic, in particular LNG fueling trailers turning into the proposed site. FEI noted that it will develop a traffic management plan for construction and operation; that during facility operations, the intention is for trucks to make deliveries during off-peak traffic times and during favorable weather for driving (autumn); and that there will be about 24 truckloads to the site per year (e.g., 3 trucks per day, for 8 days).

Safety

Some session attendees asked if the facility would have full-time personnel on site during normal operations. FEI said that the site will not be staffed on a full-time basis, but that the entire FEI system is monitored remotely, 24/7, and that FEI facilities around the province are monitored similarly. Additionally, FEI reinforced safety facts about LNG: that it is non-explosive and non-corrosive when stored; that in the unlikely occurrence of a leak, it dissipates to the air; that all structures will be built to the latest safety standards; and that the facility will include safety systems, such as fire and gas detection, to monitor for any potential risks.

Long Term Customer Value

Some session attendees expressed concern over the longer-term implications of advancing the OCMP instead of a pipeline option, including the implications on customer rates and affordability associated with advancing the OCMP and the potential requirement to build an additional project later, instead of advancing the original Okanagan Capacity Upgrade only.

Emissions from Natural Gas Usage

A representative from Kelowna Climate Coalition, a local climate advocacy group, expressed concerns about the emissions associated with the use of natural gas for home heating, the impact of these emissions on the province's and municipality's climate goals, and their preference towards electrification. FEI listened to the concerns and reinforced the work it is doing to decarbonize the use of gas, including advancing Renewable Natural Gas projects, investing in energy efficiency and conservation measures to reduce energy consumption, and complying with all municipal, provincial and federal (climate) laws.

Additionally, as stated on page 58 of the Application, FEI shared with session participants that it plans to:

Mitigate, manage and minimize potential short-term adverse effects and monitor Project impacts as construction proceeds. The mitigation measures will be based on industry best practices and applicable requirements of local regulations. To mitigate short-term adverse socio-economic impacts of Project construction, FEI will require the contractor to develop a Public Impact Mitigation Plan. Mitigation measures will include, for example, complying with municipal noise bylaws and limiting traffic access restrictions to businesses and residents during construction.

As described in the Application and in its Final Argument, FEI's consultation and engagement with stakeholders and Indigenous groups to date has been appropriate and reasonable, reflecting the OCMP's stage of development and schedule, and is sufficient to meet the requirements of the CPCN guidelines.

FEI's phased engagement plan for the OCMP calls for FEI to continue to consult with local stakeholder groups regarding the status of the OCMP after the issuance of a CPCN. FEI is committed to providing updates regarding the Project and proactively communicating with Indigenous groups and stakeholders to respond to issues or concerns throughout the Project lifecycle.³

³ Exhibit B-1, Application, pp. 92-93.

If further information is required, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

Original signed:

Sarah Walsh

cc (email only): Registered Interveners

Appendix A

CONSULTATION LOG

Stakeholder Consultation Log - Okanagan Capacity Mitigation Project

Phase 1 Consultation Log

Date	Consultation Type	External Representatives	FEI Representatives	Location	Summary/ Follow up
18 Jun 24	Meeting	City of Kelowna: Divisional Director - Planning, Climate, Sustainability & Development Divisional Director - Partnerships & Investments General Manager - Infrastructure Development Engineering Manager Development Planning Department Manager	Sr. Manager, Community & Indigenous Relations Community & Indigenous Relations Manager Manager, Project Development	Virtual - MS Teams	FEI met with City of Kelowna senior staff on June 19, 2024 to outline the need for the Project, Project scope, and timelines. Overall, the discussion was positive with no major concerns raised by City staff. Staff requested that FEI work with them to ensure alignment with the City's future projects adjacent to FEI's facilities, including the City's plans for restoration of an adjacent creek and the City's concept plan for the extension of a main transportation corridor and multi-use pathway.
22 Jul 24	Email	City of Kelowna: Divisional Director - Planning, Climate, Sustainability & Development Divisional Director - Partnerships & Investments General Manager - Infrastructure Development Engineering Manager Development Planning Department Manager	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent a follow-up letter to City staff on July 22, 2024. The letter summarized the meeting discussion on June 18th and the feedback received, provided contact and Project information, proposed to set up regular update meetings with staff, and offered to appear as a delegation to Mayor and Council, if requested.

Phase 2 Consultation Log

Date	Consultation Type	External Representatives	FEI Representatives	Location	Summary/ Follow up
1 Aug 24	Email	City of Kelowna: Divisional Director - Planning, Climate, Sustainability & Development Divisional Director - Partnerships & Investments General Manager - Infrastructure Development Engineering Manager Development Planning Department Manager	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to City staff advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	District of Coldstream	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to District of Coldstream Mayor and CAO advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	District of Lake Country	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to District of Lake Country Mayor and CAO advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	Village of Lumby	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to Village of Lumby Mayor and CAO advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	District of Peachland	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to District of Peachland Mayor and CAO advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	Regional District Central Okanagan	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to Regional District Board Chair, Vice Chair and CAO advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	Regional District North Okanagan	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to Regional District Board Chair and CAO advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	City of Vernon	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to City of Vernon Mayor and CAO advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	City of West Kelowna	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to City of West Kelowna Mayor, Interim CAO and Deputy CAO advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	Member of Legislative Assembly Norm Letnick	Government Relations & Public Affairs Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to MLA Letnick's office advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	Member of Legislative Assembly Renee Merrifield	Government Relations & Public Affairs Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to MLA Merrifield's office advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.

Phase 2 Consultation Log					
Date	Consultation Type	External Representatives	FEI Representatives	Location	Summary/ Follow up
1 Aug 24	Email	Member of Legislative Assembly Ben Stewart	Government Relations & Public Affairs Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to MLA Stewart's office advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	Member of Legislative Assembly Harwinder Sandhu	Government Relations & Public Affairs Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to MLA Sandhu's office advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
1 Aug 24	Email	Member of Parliament Tracy Gray	Government Relations & Public Affairs Manager	N/A	FEI sent an email to MP Gray's office advising of the application filing, provided a copy of the news release and a link to the project website.
2 Aug 24	Mail	Area Residents and businesses within closest proximity to Kelowna Station	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	N/A	FEI mailed letters to 192 area residents and businesses to introduce the Project, outline the need, scope and timelines. Provided a link to the project webpage, project specific email address and notification that an Information Session will be planned in Fall 2024.
14 Oct 24	Email & letter	Letter received in okanagancapacity@fortisbc.com project email inbox; the letter was also sent by mail	Resident in the close proximity to the Project	Kelowna	The letter received provided an overview of the Project area characteristics and expressed concerns regarding traffic impacts due to the LNG delivery trucks to access the site, as well as safety concerns with the project being located next to the electric substation.
29 Oct 24	Email	FEI response sent by email from okanagancapacity@fortisbc.com	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager	Kelowna	FEI responded to the 14 Oct 24 email and letter by addressing the safety and traffic concerns raised: FEI's priority is safety and rigorous plans are in place to ensure public safety, and discussed that traffic concerns have been studied and will be mitigated or will be addressed through the traffic management plan. Additionally, FEI advised that an Information Session would be held in late November where FEI would welcome the opportunity for further discussion.
30 Oct 24	Email	Email received in okanagancapacity@fortisbc.com project inbox asking us to deny the Project.	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager, Corporate Communications Advisor	Kelowna	FEI responded to the email on Nov 20th clarifying that the inbox is for Project feedback and inquiries. The response included a link to the BCUC website and project application, along with information on LNG and the Project.
18 Nov 24	Email	Email received in okanagancapacity@fortisbc.com project inbox raising concerns about electric distribution and power supply issues.	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager and Corporate Communications Advisor	Big White	FEI responded to the email on Nov 20th clarifying that the Project is being proposed by FortisBC's natural gas utility and is not related to the electric utility. The email was also forwarded to FBC's (electric) Customer Service team to follow up with the customer's concerns.
25 Nov 24	Information Session	Area Residents and businesses within closest proximity to Kelowna Station; other community stakeholders who may be interested in attending.	Community & Indigenous Relations Manager; Sr. Manager, Community & Indigenous Relations; Senior Project Manager; Manager, Project Development; Jr. Project Development Engineer; Indigenous Relations Liaison; Sr. Manager, Engineering Projects; Corporate Communications Advisor; Events Specialist	Kelowna	Information session held to review project scope and timelines with area residents and businesses. 19 people attended with 6 individuals filling out the feedback form. Most discussions were positive, with attendees wanting to learn more about the Project. Questions were asked about visual screening and aesthetics, noise, traffic, dust and choice of location.
27 Nov 24	Opinion Piece	Kelowna Climate Coalition Letter to the Editor on Castanet webpage.	N/A	Kelowna	Letter expressed health, safety and environmental concerns relating generally to the use of natural gas, and specifically to the location of the Project.

Appendix B

COMMUNICATIONS LOG

FortisBC Communications Log - Okanagan Capacity Mitigation Project

**Since July 30, 2024 (BCUC Application Filing)*

Date	Communications Activity	Details	Audience
July 30, 2024	News Release	Notification of Application filing; explanation of Project objectives and necessity; summary of Project scope and anticipated timelines; contact information and links to learn more.	British Columbia news outlets, for further dissemination to members of the public. Resulted in five news articles from July 31 - August 2, 2024, by the following outlets: Natural Gas World, Castanet, Business Examiner, Kelowna Capital News, and LNG Industry.
September 25, 2024	CBC Radio One Interview (Daybreak South - Kelowna)	Topics discussed: Application filing to the BCUC; explanation of Project objectives and necessity; summary of Project scope and anticipated timelines; and information about the original Okanagan Capacity Upgrade (OCU) Project which received a decision from the BCUC in December 2023.	Live listeners of CBTK-FM (88.9) as well as online listeners of CBC Daybreak South (on demand).
November 18-22, 2024	Paid Media Advertisements	Print advertisements were placed in Kelowna Capital News and Kelowna Daily Courier newspapers to build awareness of the public information session. Geographically targeted digital advertisements were also posted on Kelowna Now and Castanet websites.	Local residents, organizations, and members of the public.
November 21, 2024	Nearby Resident and Business Flyer/Invitation Deliveries	FEI dropped physical invitations at residential and commercial buildings within a 200-metre radius of the proposed facility site to build awareness of the public information session.	Residents and businesses within a 200-metre radius.
November 22, 2024	Media Advisory	Media advisory sent to 25 local reporter and newsroom email addresses from 13 outlets, providing details about the upcoming public information session.	Kelowna area reporters and news outlets. Resulted in media coverage by Global Okanagan, Castanet, and Vernon Matters.
November 25, 2024	Global Okanagan Interview	On-camera interview with Global Okanagan, providing details about the information session and general Project information. News story aired on Global Okanagan's 5:30pm telecast, intended to build awareness of the information session. A news article and the video story were also published online to the Global Okanagan website and social media account.	Okanagan residents, organizations, and members of the public. The online news story received third-party social media engagement, including by First Nations LNG Alliance based out of British Columbia.
November 26, 2024	AM 1150 Radio Interview	Topics discussed: Application filing to the BCUC; explanation of Project objectives and necessity; summary of Project scope and anticipated timelines; information about the previous OCU Project which received a decision from the BCUC in December 2023; and the public information session that occurred one day prior.	Live listeners of AM 1150 CKFR.