

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 2, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: Website Contact Form Submission

From: no-reply@cms.rdos.bc.ca <no-reply@cms.rdos.bc.ca>
Sent: March 2, 2022 1:41 PM
To: Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Website Contact Form Submission

The following comment was submitted from the RDOS website:

Contact Information

First Name

Avril

Last Name

Torrence

Street Address

City / Town

Penticton

Province

British Columbia

Postal Code

Phone

Email

Questions / Comments

Comments

RE: Fortis Energy - Okanagan Capacity Upgrade Project

I am writing to you as a relatively new resident of the Okanagan, having relocated to Penticton in part because of what I had learned in advance regarding the development of forward-thinking climate related policies including the City of Penticton's Climate Action Plan (passed Nov. 2021):

<https://www.penticton.ca/sites/default/files/docs/our->

[community/environment/2021%20Community%20Climate%20Action%20Plan.pdf](#)). Thus I am compelled to urge you to use whatever means possible to disallow Fortis's proposed expansion of a natural gas pipeline along Penticton's eastern border, to extend from Ellis Creek north beyond Chute Lake. My reasons are several; here are just a few salient points relative to Penticton's stated commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 100% by 2050.

– Electrification of future and existing residential and commercial properties is essential to meeting stated climate targets; any expansion of gas-fuelled homes and businesses is directly counter to these objectives;

– The methane produced in the burning of natural gas is more potent than CO₂, and its production creates fugitive methane emissions;

– Projections for regional growth do not require the growth of natural gas infrastructure when the supply of non-emitting energy is already available for home heating;

– In particular, heat pumps offer high-efficiency home heating and cooling that will extend far beyond the projected 20 year use of a gas furnace.

Finally, I understand that the BCUC seeks to ensure that BC residents have access to safe, reliable energy. The safety of gas in the home has recently been questioned because it exposes people to respiratory disease-triggering pollutants that lower indoor air quality. And when BC communities are explicitly moving away from fossil fuels, how can the so-called reliability of gas as an energy source be guaranteed? On these grounds, please reject this upgrade project.

Sincerely,

Avril Torrence