

File: 0400.20

May 15, 2025

British Columbia Utilities Commission Attention: Complaints Department Suite 410, 900 Howe Street Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Commissioners:

RE: Formal Complaint Regarding FortisBC's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Policy

At the May 8, 2025, Protective Services Committee meeting of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, the Committee resolved the following:

THAT the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen submit a complaint regarding FortisBC's Public Safety Power Shutoff Policy to the Utilities Commission, relating to Sections 25, 28, and 38 of the BC Utilities Commssion Act.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am expressing our support for the Town of Princeton's May 7, 2025 complaint regarding this matter. We agree that this policy, while intended to be a proactive wildfire prevention measure, contradicts critical provisions within the BC Utilities Commission Act.

The implementation of this policy presents significant consequences for rural communities throughout the Regional District, particularly in regard to vulnerable populations.

While I acknowledge and appreciate the Commission's May 12, 2025 order that FortisBC suspend their plans to implement this policy, I urge you to give careful consideration of the potential consequences of permitting the PSPS Policy to move forward in its current form.

Sincerely,

Mark Pendergraft

Board Chair

Cc:

Town of Princeton

FortisBC