



## Information bulletin

### FortisBC proposes new gas line project to meet Okanagan growth

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**April 15, 2020**

**SURREY, B.C. –** Today, FortisBC Energy Inc. (“FortisBC”) is announcing the Okanagan Capacity Upgrade project, an expansion of our natural gas system in the Okanagan. As we adapt together to the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, FortisBC is continuing to advance critical projects, such as this upgrade, to support the everyday energy needs of customers and communities.

The Okanagan Capacity Upgrade project is driven by the increasing demand we will be facing in the region over the next five years. It proposes 30 kilometres of new gas line that would connect to our system along Penticton’s eastern border and extend north towards Chute Lake. This extension will add crucial capacity that will meet demand both now, and well into the future.

The project is still in the early planning stages, as FortisBC prepares an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to our regulator, the British Columbia Utilities Commission. The application is expected to be filed this year.

If approved, the Okanagan Capacity Upgrade project would:

- Strengthen our system for approximately 90,000 homes and businesses in the Okanagan that rely on our natural gas service every day
- Meet growth in regional demand, with some communities expected to grow by up to 40 per cent in the next 20 years
- Begin construction as early as 2021 and be operational by 2023

As we navigate the current public health emergency, FortisBC is committed to ongoing opportunities for meaningful engagement with local governments, Indigenous communities, and residents as we progress towards our CPCN application. Opportunities for upcoming engagement include two telephone town halls on April 30 and May 6, 2020.

To learn more about the Okanagan Capacity Upgrade project, including details on the upcoming telephone town halls, visit the project webpage at [talkingenergy.ca/okanagan](http://talkingenergy.ca/okanagan). Alternatively, interested parties can connect with us at 1-888-592-7704 or by email at [okanaganupgrade@fortisbc.com](mailto:okanaganupgrade@fortisbc.com).

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## **About FortisBC**

*FortisBC Energy Inc. is a regulated utility focused on providing safe and reliable energy, including natural gas, propane and thermal energy solutions. FortisBC Energy Inc. employs more than 1,800 British Columbians and serves approximately 1,029,000 customers in 135 B.C. communities. FortisBC Energy Inc. owns and operates approximately 49,000 kilometres of natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines. FortisBC Energy Inc. is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Fortis Inc., a leader in the North American regulated electric and gas utility industry. For further information, visit [www.fortisinc.com](http://www.fortisinc.com). FortisBC uses the FortisBC name and logo under license from Fortis Inc.*