



Just and Reasonable

Promoting good governance in BC's energy sector

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025.

Happy New Year everyone, may all your decisions be just and reasonable.

As always, please forward this email to anyone you think might find it interesting. It's free, there's no advertising, and the email list will not be shared.

"The Editor"

News

The BCUC [approved](#) the first ever permanent rates for thermal energy provided by Oakridge Energy Limited Partnership, which provides heating and cooling to the Oakridge Centre property redevelopment in Vancouver, BC. The BCUC rejected the utility's assertion that operations and maintenance costs were uncontrollable, and insisted that the utility bear the risk of those costs increasing until at least the end of 2026.

The estimated annual cost for heating and cooling an Oakridge Centre residential suite in 2025 will be \$3,141, compared to an estimate of \$2,086 made when the BCUC originally [approved](#) the project.

The BCUC [approved](#) increased rates for Corix's thermal energy services to Simon Fraser University and the UniverCity property development, where a typical end-user's bill will increase by almost ten percent for each of 2024 and 2025. The BCUC maintains that, while challenging, the increase does not quite constitute rate shock.

The BCUC released a public version of a BC Hydro [decision](#) that had previously been confidential, "to satisfy the public interest of transparency and disclosure." Among other things, the BCUC found that BC Hydro had violated a provision of the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) by disclosing confidential knowledge to PowerEx, the energy trading company owned by BC Hydro, before making the information public. The BCUC determined that there was "no evidence of willful intent" and that the violation did not warrant penalizing the government-owned utility.

Business in Vancouver [reports](#) that the Canadian government has pushed its target of "net-zero electricity" from 2035 to 2050. Alberta immediately announced it would mount a legal challenge on the ground that this is provincial jurisdiction.

NERC, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, [released](#) its December 2024 long-term reliability assessment. From 2027, BC may face "periods of insufficient operating reserves when neighboring areas are unable to provide excess energy" in the event of drought and extreme cold winter temperatures.

According to a report by Bloomberg, the cost of clean hydrogen will remain "far more expensive than previously thought for decades to come." The firm tripled its previous 2050 cost estimate citing future costs for hydrogen electrolyzers.

Feature



Fortis residential gas bills rose 17.5 percent on January 1

This is a shocking increase in one year, which the BCUC should have considered smoothing out. But worse may be to come – and it's clear the BC government's energy affordability objectives don't apply to gas customers.

[Read the article](#)

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Recent



BCUC agrees to a more robust process in BC Hydro Fort Nelson proceeding

In addition to letters of comment, interveners will now get to make a final argument, but the BC Sustainable Energy Association still won't be able to participate.

[Read the article](#)

BCUC agrees public has right to see reasons for Cambie



Gardens decision

In a win for transparency, the BC Utilities Commission reverses an earlier ruling that its reasons for the Cambie Gardens Energy complaint decision should be confidential.

[Read the article](#)

Events



PACIFIC ENERGY INNOVATION ASSOCIATION

PEIA Energy Breakfast Meeting

The Pacific Energy Innovation Association will hold a breakfast meeting at 7:30 am on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. The subject is "The BC-SMART Low Carbon Fuels Consortium."

[See all upcoming events](#)

Diversion

A cheerful thought for us all as we enter 2025:

"The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; the pessimist fears this is true."

James Branch Cabell

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