



## Just and Reasonable

Promoting good governance in BC's energy sector

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Welcome to the Just and Reasonable newsletter.

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"The Editor"

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## News

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The BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) [received](#) a request from BC Hydro, the province's largest electric utility, to exempt two diesel generation projects from the need for approval. The BCUC has already allowed the state-owned utility to avoid developing a long-term resource plan for these areas, to the [distress of the local First Nations](#). For the new request, First Nations and other interest groups will not be permitted to intervene in the proceeding.

The BCUC [approved](#) a \$147 million request from BC Hydro to upgrade a transmission line to serve increased demand at the Highland Valley copper mine, owned by Teck Resources Limited. The BCUC noted that the current tariff for such upgrades, approved in 1991, may no longer be suitable for allocating the full costs to the customer, and that in 2012 it had recommended a review of the "significant and urgent issue", which never took place. This time, the BCUC has directed BC Hydro to file an application to review the tariff by September 2025.

The BCUC [made public](#) a November 2024 decision approving rates for Wyse Meter Solutions Inc. The decision had not been disclosed earlier pending a decision on confidentiality.

A BC government [report](#) reveals that provincial snowpack is only at 72 percent of normal levels, indicating "early concerns for drought conditions." Two thirds of the season's snowfall should have arrived by now. This does not bode well for the province's electricity generation in the coming year; BC Hydro has been [forced to rely on imported electricity](#) recently.

The International Energy Agency released its [2025 electricity report](#). Canada's electricity demand grew 0.7 percent in 2024, and is forecast to grow 1 percent annually until 2027. Hydro electric generation dropped 6 percent, however, due to "severe drought conditions."

The BC government [announced](#) plans to give the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) the role of deciding whether to issue permits for renewable energy projects such as wind and solar. This follows an [earlier announcement](#) that the BCER would become a "one-window regulator" for the proposed North Coast Transmission Line and other high-voltage transmission projects. The [Energy Resource Activities Act](#) gives the BCER no direct role in the electricity sector at present.

The Fraser Institute released a [report](#) on decarbonizing Canada's electricity generation by 2050.

The country will need the equivalent of 134 facilities like BC Hydro's Site C dam, or 16 nuclear facilities like Ontario's Bruce Power plant. The report describes this as a "daunting challenge" and suggests it might not be realistic.

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## Feature

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### BC's climate policies could cause Fortis gas bills to increase 66 percent by 2030

A combination of planned increases in the carbon tax and the use of renewable natural gas will test the minister of energy's ability to meet his new energy affordability mandate.

[Read the article](#)

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## Recent

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### Will BC Hydro's ratepayers get "zapped" again?

BC Hydro's latest call for clean power is being trumpeted as a success. But the energy is going to be expensive, and there are concerns it won't be available soon enough.

[Read the article](#)

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### Are economic issues derailing BC's climate agenda?



The energy minister's new marching orders have different priorities than a year ago, and may reflect a new degree of realism in the face of financial constraints.

[Read the article](#)

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## Events

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### NARUC winter policy summit

NARUC, the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, will hold its 2025 winter policy summit from February 23 to 26, 2025, in Washington, DC.



PACIFIC ENERGY INNOVATION ASSOCIATION

### PEIA Energy Breakfast Meeting

The Pacific Energy Innovation Association will hold a breakfast meeting at 7:30 am on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. The subject is "Energy Transition Platform."

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[See all upcoming events](#)

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## Diversion

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"It is the responsibility of leadership to work intelligently with what is given, and not waste time fantasizing about a world of flawless people and perfect choices."

Marcus Aurelius



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