



## Just and Reasonable

Promoting good governance in BC's energy sector

Welcome to the Just and Reasonable newsletter, I hope my BC readers enjoyed the Victoria Day long weekend.

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"

### Feature article



### BCUC fumbles attempt to regulate PNG's costs

Cuts to spending on pipeline safety have thankfully been reversed. But the Utilities Commission's squeeze on PNG's operating costs highlights the regulator's special treatment for BC Hydro.

[Read the article](#)

### In other news

The BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) **approved** 10 percent rate increases for each of the next three years for customers of River District Energy, a thermal energy utility serving a large property development in southeast Vancouver. The higher rates are due in part to the slower-than-expected growth of customers; the property was to be completed by 2031, but will be over twenty years delayed.

The federal government **launched** consultations towards developing a National Electricity Strategy. It claims that doubling the capacity of Canada's electricity grid by 2050 could save up

to \$15 billion, as long as there is a "willingness" to use a wide range of energy "including natural gas".

BC Hydro will **award** four contracts to buy wind energy from new facilities in northern and south-central BC. These winners of the utility's 2025 Call for Power will generate approximately 3,500 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity by October 2033.

BC **announced** an agreement on "enhanced investment co-operation and actions" with the federal government and LNG Canada regarding the company's plans to double the capacity of its Kitimat-based LNG export facility. A decision on the project, which could add some 14 million tonnes of exported gas, is expected by the end of 2026. There were no details of what specific investment co-operation or actions might be involved.

FortisBC is **reported** to have violated its environmental permit for the construction of its pipeline to serve the Woodfibre LNG export terminal near Squamish. The company has discharged more than its permitted amount of wastewater containing dissolved copper into Howe Sound.

Canada is **proposing** to simplify its infrastructure approval processes to ensure federal reviews take no more than one year. This **includes** assigning responsibility for pipeline and transmission line project reviews to the Canadian Energy Regulator (CER); they would no longer require a separate review under the Impact Assessment Act. Decisions on whether projects are in the public interest would be made at the beginning of the review process, reducing risks and costs for investors.

The federal government also reached an **agreement** with Alberta that could see construction start on an oil pipeline to the west coast of BC by September 2027. The deal includes a carbon capture and storage project to reduce 16 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2045, and Alberta increasing its industrial carbon emissions price to \$130 per tonne by 2040.

Waymo recalled almost 3,800 electric vehicles after one of its empty cars **drove** into a flooded road in San Antonio, Texas. An industry expert was quoted as saying that "one of the biggest gaps in autonomous driving AI today is common sense." The vehicle was recovered downstream four days later.

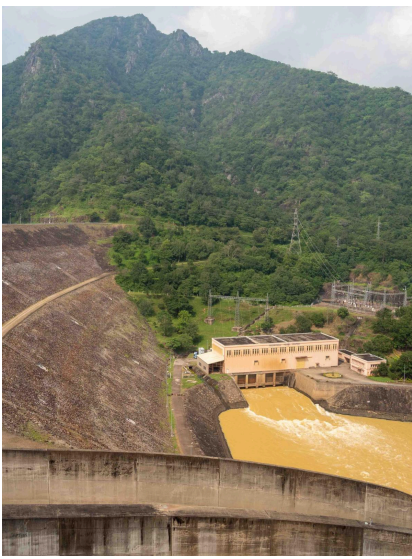
## Recent articles



### BC Hydro rates (and more) at risk from new DRIPA-related court case

Lil'wat Nation demands BC Hydro pay more for its privately generated electricity because of Aboriginal ownership, citing DRIPA. BC's Attorney General argues they should not.

[Read the article](#)



## Will BC build another large hydroelectric dam?

It's one of the better options for the reliable power the province needs. The sooner we get started the better.

[Read the article](#)

## Diversion

Crusted roast rack of lamb.

### Ingredients (crust):

- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons chopped rosemary
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

### Ingredients (lamb):

- 1 rack of lamb
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees
2. Mix crust ingredients in a bowl
3. Season lamb with salt and pepper
4. Sear lamb on all sides in olive oil over high heat; cool for a few minutes
5. Brush lamb with mustard and roll in breadcrumb mix (not you, the lamb)
6. Roast lamb for around 15 minutes until internal temperature reaches 140 degrees.
7. Rest for a few minutes (again...)
8. Carve and serve

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