

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Special Direction to the British Columbia Utilities Commission issued under Section 4 of the *Fuel Price Transparency Act*

Subject: Direction to require submission of fuel data from retail dealers of gasoline and diesel fuel in British Columbia and report to the Minister

This special direction outlines how the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) is to use their authority, as the designated administrator of the *Fuel Price Transparency Act* (FPTA) and in accordance with the FPTA, to require fuel data from retailer dealers of reportable fuels for the purposes of a retail data collection pilot (the 'pilot'). This pilot will inform the development of regulations for ongoing data collection targeted at the retail component of the fuel supply chain in British Columbia.

SCOPE

The BCUC is to exercise its authority under section 6 of the FPTA to require fuel data from retail dealers of reportable fuel in British Columbia. The BCUC may use its discretion to determine which retail dealers are selected for the purposes of the pilot, but must ensure the collection of retail dealers provide a representative sample of retail fuel operations across the province, inclusive of retail dealers that are:

- in urban communities of varied size and in rural areas;
- geographically dispersed across the province; and
- independent, branded, or part of an integrated corporate supply arrangement.

The BCUC is also to exercise its judgement and discretion to determine the frequency of submission and the specific data elements to be provided by retail dealers (or a subset thereof as determined by the BCUC) through the pilot. The BCUC may, in its discretion and at any time during the pilot, amend the frequency of submission, the specific data elements being submitted, or the retail dealers who are to submit such fuel data.

TIMELINE

The BCUC is to commence the pilot in accordance with this direction from select retail dealers within 90 days of the effective date of this special direction.

The pilot is to be completed over a twelve-month period, concluding no later than November 30, 2021.

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

If the BCUC wishes to publish fuel data, or other information or records acquired under the FPTA, it must do so only in accordance with its obligations at law, including the obligations set forth in section 9 (2) of the FPTA.

REPORT

Following the conclusion of the pilot, the BCUC is to prepare and provide a report to the Minister summarizing the results of the pilot and making recommendations on which data points should be established as periodic submission requirements, pursuant to the FPTA or regulations thereunder, along with:

- the frequency at which retail dealers should submit each fuel data point to the BCUC; and
- the characteristics of the retail dealers to which the recommended periodic submission requirements should apply, unless it is determined by the BCUC that every recommended data point should apply to every retail dealer of reportable fuel in British Columbia.

The report should also include an analysis of the costs of implementing periodic submission requirements for retail dealers relative to the anticipated benefits to the public, in alignment with the intent of the FPTA.

The BCUC is to provide a final report to the Minister no later than March 2022.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this special direction is August 14, 2020.



Bruce Ralston
Minister of Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources