

REPORT TO: Council FOR: Regular  
REPORT FROM: Development Services - Engineering  
PRESENTED: April 7, 2015 FILE:  
SUBJECT: Fortis Development Permit for test holes

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**Recommendation:**

That Council approve the following resolution:

THAT the District of Squamish authorize the acceptance of a new application from FortisBC Energy Inc., for a Development Permit to:

1. Perform non-invasive surface geophysical work;
  2. Conduct borehole investigative work at the two locations on the dike (BH-4 and BH-6) by using both vertical (as originally proposed) and lateral sampling.
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**1. Purpose/desired outcomes:**

To consider a new Development Permit for Fortis BC Energy Inc, for two investigative boreholes within the disturbed footprint of the Squamish River Dike, and for geophysical works within the Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**2. Background:**

At the Regular Council meeting of January 20, 2015 Council voted against issuance of DP 370 for 5 test holes on both sides of the Squamish River, along with the geophysical testing.

**3. Project Information:**

Fortis, has proposed a “STAGED GEOPHYSICAL-GEOTECHNICAL TESTING PROGRAM”, which is significantly reduced in scope from the previous application.

This program would involve drilling two test holes within the disturbed footprint of the dike, which would also stretch laterally in each direction at depths of 30m and 70m, along the proposed pipe routing.

Along with these two test holes would be geophysical testing, which involves surface measurement of sonic waves sent into the ground. This work would require minor trimming of vegetation in order to ensure safe passage of workers on foot. Some of this testing will take place within the WMA

The proposed phased testing procedure avoids development in the WMA, and in areas of the estuary not previously disturbed.

**4. Department Comments:**

The work that Fortis is proposing on the dike has been approved by the Inspector of Dikes and by Federal and Provincial agencies under a previous DP application.

The test drilling will require a DP as portions of the work will be within 30m of a wetted area, and the Geophysical works may require a Site Alteration Permit.

If this testing gives Fortis the results that it requires to apply for an Oil and Gas Commission permit for a pipeline, then no more testing will be required.

If further test drilling is required it would require another new Development Permit, which would not be applied for until an Environmental Assessment Certificate is issued.

As the time for reconsideration of the original permit has lapsed, Fortis has proposed a new application for an amended program. Although a modification of a previous application, it is substantially different than the original application as such, is considered to be a new application. In order for Council to consider this new application it requires a 2/3rds majority vote of Council in order to accept the application.

**5. Implications:**

a) **Budget:**

There will be further staff time for a new DP, Fortis has agreed to pay for any Engineering and Planning staff time required to move this project forward.

b) **Organizational Impact:**

There will be further staff time for a new DP.

c) **Policy:**

Part of a new DP application.

d) **Environment:**

Part of a new DP application that will require reporting and monitoring from a Qualified Environmental Professional.

e) **GHG's:**

N/A

f) **Council Priority and Strategic Plan Alignment:**

N/A

g) **Citizen Engagement**

A new DP will require a 21 day notification period on our Development showcase, posting of signage and a public information meeting. A public hearing would be scheduled.

h) **Implementation**

Staff will work with Fortis in progressing a new DP in order to determine a decision of Council no later than May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**6. Attachments:**

None

**7. Alternatives to Staff Recommendation:**

That Council decline acceptance of a new application.

**8. Staff Review**

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Rod MacLeod  
Director of Engineering

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Robin Arthurs  
GM, Corporate Services

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Gary Buxton  
GM, Development Services and Public Works

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Joanne Greenlees  
GM, Financial Services

**CAO Recommendation:**

That the recommendation of Engineering be approved.

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C. Becker, CAO