

September 11, 2024

Enforcement File: 2022-0114

Brent Kavelaars  
Engineering (Gas) Manager  
FortisBC Energy Inc.  
16705 Fraser Highway  
Surrey, BC V4N 0E8

**RE: Warning: Accidental Line Strike September 10, 2022, Salmon Arm, BC**

Mr. Kavelaars,

On September 10, 2022, FortisBC Energy Inc. (Fortis) reported to the British Columbia Energy Regulator (BCER) that an accidental line strike had occurred in Salmon Arm while a Fortis contractor was drilling through a second line. Both lines are the property of Fortis.

This line strike resulted in the uncontrolled release of gas from the damaged high pressure line. Fortis immediately took steps to secure the damaged line and protect the public as this was a residential area. The Salmon Arm Fire Department attended the scene and eleven homes were evacuated as a precaution. Fortis also initiated their Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and set up a command post and assigned staff to roles within the Incident Command Structure format. No one was injured as a result of the incident and no property was damaged.

The cause of this incident was the failure to update the measurement card by the technician conducting the re-tap when a new cutter with no pilot was used. Fortis has since implemented new policies and updated training to avoid a similar incident.

The gas released did not contain any hydrogen sulphide, but still represented a significant risk to the public. The incident caused local emergency services to become involved, making them unavailable for other duties. This also caused a financial cost to the municipality for the use of its emergency services. Eleven home were evacuated as a precautionary measure; those families experienced a degree of stress not normal to their daily routine.

Given the circumstances, Fortis is hereby issued a warning for the following:

1. On or about September 10, 2022, at or near Salmon Arm, BC, Fortis did fail to prevent the spillage of gas from SAL LOP 168 pipeline at KP 33.1 and did thereby contravene section 37(1)(a) of the *Energy Resources Activities Act*.

If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Compliance & Enforcement Officer  
BC Energy Regulator