

## Debbie Schulz

---

**From:** Info E-Box  
**Sent:** February 28, 2022 9:01 AM  
**To:** Debbie Schulz  
**Subject:** FW: Fortis Okanagan Capacity Upgrade Project

**From:** Aart  
**Sent:** February 27, 2022 1:59 PM  
**To:** Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Fortis Okanagan Capacity Upgrade Project

To: RDOS  
Re: Fortis Okanagan Capacity Upgrade

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is a response to Fortis's plan for a capacity upgrade between Penticton and Chute Lake. Allow me to quote from the Fortis Website as an introduction to my response: "We're planning to increase our capacity in the Okanagan by adding approximately 30 kilometres of new gas line. This project will be an extension of our existing natural gas system, connecting along Penticton's eastern border and extending north, just beyond Chute Lake. The Okanagan Capacity Upgrade project is driven by the increasing demand we are facing in the region, and will allow us to meet energy needs now, and well into the future. This expansion would strengthen our system for approximately 105,000 homes and businesses in the Okanagan that rely on our natural gas service every day".

Please allow me to share the following reservations with you regarding this project:

- This planned project will not contribute to Canada's commitment towards meeting its Global Warming targets as set forth in the COP26 in Glasgow. Rather than burning more gas to heat the additional homes Fortis writes about on their website, the homes should be equipped with already available alternative heating and cooling sources such as electrical heat-pumps.
- Fortis's plan, I believe, is to use RNG. The only clear benefit of Renewable Natural Gas (=RNG) is that it reduces the amount of organic waste left to decay and emit methane into the air, but once RNG is captured and/or produced and being burned to heat homes, it generates the same amount of Greenhouse gasses as Natural Gas does. At best, if the production of RNG were carbon neutral, i.e. you capture as much as you burn, it would not reduce the carbon footprint. However, in fairness, if Fortis does not use RNG but NG, the emissions may be both from the NG and the landfills, which you could argue is worse than any other scenario. **Therefore now is the time to push for alternative energy systems, such as electric heat-pumps.**
- There will likely not be enough landfills to do large scale projects. Furthermore, RNG, I believe, is more expensive to produce than NG. The cost can be up to 5x higher per BTU than Natural Gas depending on the feed-stock used (American Gas Foundation, 2019).
- Pipeline construction will further damage the environment by crossing streams and sensitive habitat.
- Fortis is the primary provider of Natural Gas in BC as well as a major player in the Americas and it will therefore be in their interest to push gas use rather than electrification.

Sincerely Yours,

Aart J. Dronkers

February 27, 2022