



**ORDER NUMBER
G-173-26**

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

Bluestem Multi-Utility Services ULC
Sun Rivers and Sonoma Pines Natural Gas Service Rate Schedules 3 and 5

BEFORE:

W. E. Royle, Commissioner

on August 12, 2026

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. Bluestem Multi-Utility Services ULC (BMUS) filed the following applications with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for its natural gas services at each of Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers (together, the Applications):
- Application dated July 22, 2024, for approval of tariff amendments effective July 1, 2024, including updates to Rate Schedule (RS) 1 – Residential Service, and RS 2 – Small Commercial Service, and an expansion to include RS 3 – Large Commercial Service;
 - Application dated June 19, 2026, for approval of RS 5 – General Firm Service, effective July 1, 2026, or such other date as the BCUC may direct; and
 - Application dated July 14, 2026, for approval of tariff amendments effective July 1, 2026, for RS 1, RS 2 and RS 3.
- B. BMUS owns and operates the natural gas distribution system at the Community of Sonoma Pines at Westbank pursuant to the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) granted by Order C-13-05, and the natural gas distribution system at the Community of Sun Rivers at Kamloops pursuant to the CPCN granted by Order C-18-99;
- C. On July 17, 2026, the BCUC issued a letter to BMUS seeking supplemental information on the Applications;
- D. On July 22, 2026, BMUS filed its responses to the BCUC letter (Supplemental Information); and
- E. The Panel has reviewed the Applications and Supplemental Information and considers the following determinations are warranted.

NOW THEREFORE for the reasons outlined in the decision accompanying this order, the BCUC orders as follows:

1. A regulatory timetable for the review of the Applications is established as set out in Appendix A to this order.
2. On or before Thursday, August 20, 2026, BMUS is directed to provide notice of the Applications and this order, or post the Public Notice attached as Appendix B to this order, on the following websites:
 - a. <https://bluestemutilities.com/sun-rivers/>; and
 - b. <https://bluestemutilities.com/sonoma-pines/>.
3. On or before Tuesday, August 25, 2026, BMUS is directed to provide to the BCUC written confirmation of compliance with the public notice requirements set out in Directive 2 of this order.
4. For Sonoma Pines:
 - a. RS 5 is approved on an interim basis effective July 1, 2026, as set out in the tariff pages filed on June 19, 2026, and as adjusted to update the tariff pages to reflect the current FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) Rider 8.
 - b. BMUS is directed to file revised tariff pages for RS 5 with the BCUC by Thursday, August 27, 2026, to reflect that approval is granted on an interim basis and to update the Table of Charges Rider 8 to match FEI's current Rider 8.
5. For Sun Rivers:
 - a. RS 5 is approved on an interim basis effective July 1, 2026, as set out in the tariff pages filed on June 19, 2026, and as adjusted to update the tariff pages to reflect the current FEI Rider 8.
 - b. BMUS is directed to file revised tariff pages for RS 5 with the BCUC by Thursday, August 27, 2026, to reflect that approval is granted on an interim basis and to update the Table of Charges Rider 8 to match FEI's current Rider 8.
 - c. RS 3 is approved on an interim basis effective July 1, 2026, as set out in the tariff pages filed on July 14, 2026.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 12th day of August 2026.

BY ORDER

Electronically signed by Wendy Royle

W. E. Royle
Commissioner

Bluestem Multi-Utility Services ULC
Sun Rivers and Sonoma Pines Natural Gas Service Rate Schedules 3 and 5

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2026)
BMUS public notice of Applications	Thursday, August 20
BMUS confirmation of compliance with public notice requirements	Tuesday, August 25
BCUC Information Request (IR) No. 1	Wednesday, September 2
BMUS responses to IR No. 1	Thursday, September 17
Letters of comment deadline	Monday, September 21
BMUS final argument and reply, if any, to letters of comment	Thursday, September 24



We want to hear from you

Bluestem Multi-Utility Natural Gas Rates for Sun Rivers and Sonoma Pines Customers

Bluestem Multi-Utility Services ULC has filed applications with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for approvals to charge its large commercial and general firm service customers at Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers rates that are consistent with FortisBC Energy Inc.'s rate schedule for the same type of service. This is consistent with how residential and small commercial customers are treated under the existing rate-setting mechanism.

The BCUC has initiated a public and transparent proceeding to review the utility's applications. To participate in the proceeding, please see the options below or visit www.bcuc.com/get-involved for more information.

GET INVOLVED

- [Subscribe to the proceeding](#)
- [Submit a letter of comment](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

1. **Monday, September 21, 2026**
Deadline to submit a letter of comment

Please visit the [proceeding page](#) on bcuc.com under "Our Work" to learn more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Bluestem Multi-Utility Services ULC
Sun Rivers and Sonoma Pines Natural Gas Service Rate Schedules 3 and 5

DECISION

1.0 Background

On February 28, 2005, Terasen Multi-Utility Services Inc. (TMUS) filed applications with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to construct and operate natural gas and electric utility distribution systems in the Sonoma Pines Subdivision in Westbank, B.C., and for approval of utility service rates (CPCN Application). By Order C-13-05 dated May 30, 2005, the BCUC issued a CPCN and, in Directive 3, approved "...natural gas rates for Sonoma Pines as set out in Section 4.1 of Tab 1 and Appendix B of the Applications, effective June 1, 2005." Section 4.1 of Tab 1 of the CPCN Application, as set out in the Supplemental Information, includes residential, small commercial, and large commercial service rates.¹

On June 27, 2005, TMUS filed with the BCUC an application for approval to change rates for natural gas service to customers at the Sun Rivers Resort Community, effective July 1, 2005. By Order G-68-05 dated July 4, 2005, the BCUC approved "...changes to Gas Cost Recovery Charges for Rate Schedule 1 – Residential Service and Rate Schedule 2 – Small Commercial Service for Sun Rivers as set out in the Application, effective July 1, 2005."

Orders C-13-05 (Directive 4) and G-68-05 (Directive 2) also granted TMUS approval to amend the natural gas Basic Charges, Delivery Charges and Gas Cost Recovery Charges for Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers, respectively, in order to maintain customer rates at levels equivalent to those of the Terasen Gas Inland Division, now FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI). The BCUC approvals are subject to the filing of the amended rates with the BCUC within ten business days of the effective date of the changes to FEI rates, and subject to review by the BCUC in the event of a complaint by an interested party within 60 days of the effective date.

Bluestem Multi-Utility Services ULC (BMUS), the successor to TMUS, filed the following applications with the BCUC for its natural gas services at each of Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers (together, the Applications):

- Application dated July 22, 2024, for approval of tariff amendments effective July 1, 2024, including updates to Rate Schedule (RS) 1 – Residential Service, and RS 2 – Small Commercial Service, and an expansion to include RS 3 – Large Commercial Service;²
- Application dated June 19, 2026, for approval of RS 5 – General Firm Service, effective July 1, 2026, or such other date as the BCUC may direct;³ and
- Application dated July 14, 2026, for approval of tariff amendments effective July 1, 2026 for RS 1, RS 2 and RS 3.⁴

BMUS notes in the Applications that they are filed pursuant to BCUC Orders C-13-05 and G-68-05 which approved the mechanism to amend the natural gas service rates for each of Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers, respectively.

¹ Exhibit B-4, PDF p. 18.

² Exhibit B-1.

³ Exhibits B-2.

⁴ Exhibit B-3.

In response to a BCUC letter dated July 17, 2026,⁵ BMUS filed additional information to provide further context for the applicable rate setting mechanisms, including historical application documents and a request for interim approval of RS 5 for Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers, effective July 1, 2026 (Supplemental Information).

Specifically, in the Supplemental Information, BMUS states that:

- Unlike RS 5, it is not requesting interim approval of RS 3, which was set out in the July 22, 2024 application filed pursuant to Directive 4 of Order C-13-05 and Directive 2 of Order G-68-05. BMUS notes that the tariff pages were signed and accepted in 2024.⁶
- The rate setting mechanism set out in Directive 4 of Order C-13-05 and Directive 2 of Order G-68-05 was “understood at the outset” to apply to additional rate schedules beyond those applicable in 2005 (i.e. RS 1 and RS 2) as qualifying customers appear.⁷

In response to a BCUC email dated August 7, 2026,⁸ regarding any potential confidentiality concerns related to Exhibits B-1 to B-4, BMUS filed a letter dated August 11, 2026.⁹ In its letter, BMUS requests clarification regarding whether the application dated July 14, 2026, for approval of tariff amendments effective July 1, 2026, for RS 1, RS 2 and RS 3 is intended to be reviewed within this proceeding or processed separately.

Panel Determination

The rate setting mechanism approved for each of Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers grants BMUS approval to “... amend the natural gas Basic Charges, Delivery Charges and Gas Cost Recovery Charges ... in order to maintain customer rates at levels equivalent to those of Terasen Gas Inland Division...”¹⁰ The Panel interprets this wording to refer to any *amendment* of existing rates that the BCUC has approved for TMUS, rather than an *expansion* to TMUS’s tariff to add new rate schedules. Accordingly, the Panel determinations below address which rate schedules have been previously approved by the BCUC for each of Sun Rivers and Sonoma Pines. Further, in the absence of explicit BCUC approval to apply the rate setting mechanism to additional rate schedules, the Panel considers it necessary to grant interim approval of certain rate schedules for each of Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers effective July 1, 2026, pending further BCUC review.

Sonoma Pines

The Panel makes the following determinations with respect to BMUS natural gas service at Sonoma Pines:

- **RS 5 is approved on an interim basis effective July 1, 2026, as set out in the tariff pages filed on June 19, 2026 and as adjusted to update the tariff pages to reflect the current FEI Rider 8; and**
- **BMUS is directed to file revised tariff pages for RS 5 with the BCUC by Thursday, August 27, 2026, to reflect that approval is granted on an interim basis and to update the Table of Charges Rider 8 to match FEI’s current Rider 8.**

The Panel finds that the rate setting mechanism set out in Order C-13-05 applies to RS 3, in addition to RS 1 and RS 2, based on review of Order C-13-05 as a whole, rather than reading Directive 4 in isolation. Specifically, Directive 3 of Order C-13-05 approved “...natural gas rates for Sonoma Pines as set out in Section 4.1 of Tab 1 and Appendix B of the [2005 applications filed by TMUS], effective June 1, 2005.” Section 4.1 of Tab 1 includes

⁵ Exhibit A2-1.

⁶ Exhibit B-4, PDF p. 2.

⁷ Exhibit B-4, PDF p. 3.

⁸ Exhibit A2-2.

⁹ Exhibit B-5.

¹⁰ Wording used both in Order C-13-05 and Order G-68-05, as referenced in Section 1.1.

residential, small commercial and large commercial rates, which the Panel interprets to be equivalent to FEI's RS 1, RS 2 and RS 3.

However, the Panel finds that the BCUC has not yet approved BMUS to charge rates pursuant to RS 5 or any future additional rate schedules for Sonoma Pines, since there is no reference to any rate schedules other than RS 1, 2 and 3 in either Section 4.1 of Tab 1 or Appendix B of TMUS's 2005 applications.

The Panel is satisfied that approval of RS 5 on an interim basis is appropriate, effective July 1, 2026, because the rate schedule is consistent with the FEI rate schedule for the same type of service, which is a reasonable basis for BMUS to charge customers until permanent rates are set.

Regarding the July 14, 2026 application for approval of tariff amendments effective July 1, 2026, the Panel does not consider that any further orders are required in relation to RS 1, RS 2 and RS 3 for Sonoma Pines. The amended rates for each of RS 1, RS 2 and RS 3 are equivalent to FEI's, which is consistent with the rate setting mechanism set out in Directive 4 of C-13-05.

Sun Rivers

The Panel makes the following determinations with respect to BMUS natural gas service at Sun Rivers:

- **RS 5 is approved on an interim basis effective July 1, 2026, as set out in the tariff pages filed on June 19, 2026 and as adjusted to update the tariff pages to reflect the current FEI Rider 8;**
- **BMUS is directed to file revised tariff pages for RS 5 with the BCUC by Thursday, August 27, 2026, to reflect that approval is granted on an interim basis and to update the Table of Charges Rider 8 to match FEI's current Rider 8; and**
- **RS 3 is approved on an interim basis effective July 1, 2026, as set out in the tariff pages filed on July 14, 2026.**

The Panel finds that the rate setting mechanism for Sun Rivers set out in Order G-68-05 applies to RS 1 and RS 2, based on review of that order as a whole, rather than reading Directive 2 in isolation. Specifically, Directive 1 of Order G-68-05 approved changes to the "Gas Cost Recovery Charges for [RS] 1 – Residential Service and [RS] 2 – Small Commercial Service as set out in the Application..." However, the Panel finds that the BCUC has not yet approved BMUS to charge rates pursuant to RS 3, RS 5 or any future additional rate schedules for Sun Rivers, since there is no reference to any rate schedules other than RS 1 and RS 2 in Order G-68-05.

The Panel is satisfied that interim approval of RS 3 and RS 5 is appropriate, effective July 1, 2026, because these rate schedules are consistent with the FEI rate schedules for the same type of service, which is a reasonable basis for BMUS to charge customers until permanent rates are set. Given that BMUS has already charged customers RS 3 rates between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2026, based on previously accepted tariff pages, the Panel finds that interim approval of RS 3 for this past time period is not necessary. The Panel will consider any permanent approvals required for RS 3 for Sun Rivers dating back to an effective date of July 1, 2024, as part of the current proceeding.

Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers

With respect to the July 14, 2026 application for approval of tariff amendments effective July 1, 2026, the Panel does not consider that any further orders are required in relation to RS 1 and RS 2 for Sun Rivers. The amended rates for each of RS 1 and RS 2 are equivalent to FEI's, which is consistent with the rate setting mechanism set out in Directive 2 of G-68-05.

The Panel will determine how any variance between the approved interim rates and permanent rates for both Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers will be addressed at the time the BCUC renders its final decision in this proceeding.

In response to the BMUS letter dated August 11, 2026, and for the reasons above, the Panel confirms that RS 3 for Sun Rivers will be addressed as part of this proceeding. RS 1 and 2 for Sonoma Pines and Sun Rivers, and RS 3 for Sonoma Pines, will be reviewed and accepted separately, as applicable, pursuant to the BCUC's standard tariff review process in accordance with the rate setting mechanism set out in Orders C-13-05 and G-68-05.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 12th day of August 2026.

Electronically signed by Wendy Royle

W. E. Royle
Commissioner