Bulletin: FortisBC New Development Feasibility Study

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This information is summarized for convenience. Please contact FortisBC at 1-888-244-2710 for more information.

What is this new FortisBC review process?

The FortisBC New Development Feasibility Assessment is intended to provide developers and prospective real estate buyers with an opportunity for due diligence prior to closing a real estate purchase or investing resources in detailed planning and design.

The intent is to ensure electricity service for new developments in the City is available and reliable.

Why is this review process necessary?

In Kelowna, FortisBC is facing the challenge of rapidly scaling up capacity to meet new electrical needs for homes, businesses, industry, and transportation. Increasing frequency of extreme weather, growth, the move to decarbonization, and vastly expanding electricity use continues to place pressure on electricity systems.

The City of Kelowna's Development Planning Department currently sends FortisBC land development applications through our technical review process for development permits. FortisBC would like to be contacted earlier in the development process to track potential high demand areas and periods, based on proposed land use and development density. This information will help with planning and identifying system upgrades prior to anticipated construction and building occupancy.

The study will also determine if there is sufficient capacity for your development.

Who should apply for a study?

Contact FortisBC if your property is within the substation service areas, intend to build in the next 5 years, and plan to construct more than 50 units of residential development or operate a high electrical demand business.

To **view substation service areas**, go to the City of Kelowna Map Viewer. On the left side of map screen, under layers, select 'Zoning and Land Use', select the '+' to open the zoning and land use options, then select 'FortisBC Electric Substation Service Areas'.

For land development inquiries, contact:

Development Planning
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4
TEL 250-469-8626
planninginfo@kelowna.ca

How do I apply for a feasibility study?

Option 1

1. Developer/Customer call **FortisBC Contact center at 1-866-436-7847** to reach the automated menu. Press option 1, and then option 4 for "Construction", to request a "New Development Feasibility Study" for within the City of Kelowna. Call center agents will request basic contact information and the property address from the developer/representative. Agents will provide an OID reference number.
2. The developer will then be contacted for the following information to create a total connected load form:
    - Anticipated unit counts
    - Number of storeys
    - Commercial component (Commercial, Amenity buildings etc.)
    - Anticipated construction date
    - Anticipated electric service required by date
3. The request will then be assigned to the Planning & Asset Management group.
4. FBC Planning will complete a feasibility review and provide a response to the developer. FBC will respond within 30 business days.
5. The results of the feasibility review study will be valid for 24 months starting from the date when the response was communicated to the developer. Where more time is required, it is recommended the developer contact FortisBC to renew and provide and update if the application is under review with the City of Kelowna.

Option 2

Fill out the online service request form located on the FortisBC website. This online form is for new service requests, so it requires more information. Developers can provide basic information and specify in the notes section "This is a request for New Development Feasibility Study". After submission of the form, an agent will open an OID reference number and email the developer.

How much does the application process cost?

There is no fee associated with this study.

What's next?

Work is being completed to expand electrical capacity in Kelowna to keep pace with demand.