



Committed to British Columbia's energy needs, FortisBC provides safe, reliable and innovative energy solutions. The companies that make up FortisBC* deliver more energy than any other utility in the province, approximately 21 per cent of the total energy consumed in B.C. They employ more than 2,000 people and serve more than 1.1 million customers in 135 communities. In addition to natural gas, electricity and piped propane, FortisBC develops and designs alternative energy solutions, including district energy and geoexchange, for today and tomorrow.

FortisBC has implemented a GIS system that is being used by more than 200 employees in departments that include GIS, Engineering, Public Underground Locations Services, Completions, System Survey, IRM Dispatch and Special Projects.

John Himmel leads the GIS Department on the natural gas side of FortisBC. This group is responsible for creating and maintaining geographic records of FortisBC physical assets including pipelines, stations, land and rights of way. Some of the tasks that this group performs include:

- Importing GPS coordinates and updating in GIS
- Providing maps, reports and GPS Coordinate Lists of pipeline assets, lot lines and rights of way for FortisBC crew, planners, contractors and Oil and Gas Commission (OGC)
- Through the BC One Call system, providing asset location information to outside customers such as contractors, municipalities and individual property owners.



Precise cadastral data helps to ensure the accuracy of digs in urban areas.

Piet Nooij is the Production Process Manager, Business & IT Services. His role is to provide GIS expertise and technical support to the GIS Department, as well as managing the acquisition of aerial imagery and surveys.

One of the many projects in progress is updating pipeline location data. FortisBC needs a common landbase over which to overlay gas system assets. The daunting nature of this project was complicated by the fact that FortisBC had to work with 135 communities to update the landbase. As a founding member of ICIS, FortisBC was able to eliminate the requirement to work individually with each community. ICIS maintains data sharing agreements with each of the 135 communities that FortisBC needs to work with and saves FortisBC a significant amount of effort.

FortisBC is in the process of adjusting the gas system assets to align with the new landbase provided through ICIS. With 50 per cent of the areas completed, FortisBC is working to update the remainder of the landbase and gas system assets in the next couple of years.

“FortisBC has a strong relationship with ICIS and utilizes the Society to access landbase and facilities data to improve and streamline our business processes. The level of collaboration that is facilitated by ICIS enables FortisBC’s GIS staff to work more effectively.”

**Piet Nooij, Production Process Manager
Business & IT Services.**

* FortisBC is the common brand identity under which the following businesses operate: FortisBC Inc., FortisBC Energy Inc., FortisBC Energy (Vancouver Island) Inc., and FortisBC Energy (Whistler) Inc.