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British Columbia Utilities Commission

Letter of Comment

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to submit a letter of comment concerning an application currently before the Commission, please provide a completed form to commission.secretary@bcuc.com. If email is unavailable, please mail the form to the address above. By doing so, you acknowledge that all letters of comment are published with the author's name as part of the public evidentiary record, both in print copy and on the Commission's website. All personal contact information provided on this page is removed before posting to the website. Forms must be received by the Commission by the last filing date included in the proceeding's regulatory timetable before final arguments.

Proceeding name: Discriminatory Electricity Rates

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party? No

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Name (first and last): Annette Star

City: [redacted] Province: BC

Email: [redacted] Phone number: +[redacted]

The BC Utilities Commission is authorized to collect and publish a person or organization's personal information when they participate in a matter before the Commission under sections 26(c) and 33.1(r)(ii) and (iii) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). Subject to FOIPPA, all documents filed in respect to an application will be placed on the public record.

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last): Annette Star

Date: July 22, 2016

Comment: Please specify the reasons for your interest in the proceeding, your views concerning the proceeding, any relevant information that supports or explains your views, the conclusion you support and any recommendations. The Commission may disallow comments that do not comply with the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

I am a residential electricity customer of FortisBC, without access to natural gas, living at the North end of Osoyoos Lake.

I have noticed a big increase in my electricity bill.

Under the current two-tier system the majority of my electricity consumption is in Block 2 - on average about 75 to 80%. I am basing this on my electricity bills from February 8, 2016 to April 11, 2016. For a single person to pay approximately $363.00 per month shows how much of an impact this 2 tier system effects me. This is not even taking into effect my January 2016 bill which was $785.31 for the one month!

My house is only 10 years old and has all energy efficient appliances, a heat pump and I am very careful with lights and my electrical consumption. I have taken numerous steps to lower my consumption - dishwasher maybe once a week - always at about 11:00 pm, laundry done at night - usually around 8:00 pm and only 2 loads a week maximum, only using outdoor lights when I am outside at night in the winter, etc.

The negative impacts I am experiencing are primarily the result of the poorly designed "conservation" rate.

The huge electricity bills that I experience are a direct result of the Government and the BCUC requiring electric utilities to implement a two-tiered system that was not properly designed to address the wide range of electricity consumers that exist in BC. The RIB, as structured ignores the fact that there is a small percentage of BC residents (often rural such as myself) who use electricity for space and water heating and will, regardless of their efficiency levels, always consume far more electricity than the BC average. This is because most BC residents, particularly those in urban areas, have access to natural gas and use that fuel for space and water heating, significantly reducing their need to consume electricity (since 75% of the average energy use in single detached homes in BC is for space and water heating).

In additional the Block 2 rates are at a ridiculously high level. I am paying one of the highest electricity rates in Canada on the majority of my electrical consumption simply because I live in a rural area with no access to natural gas and hence use electricity rather than natural gas for space and water heating.

The only way to mitigate the adverse impacts that the RIB is having on a small percentage of BC residents is to move to a different pricing system. This could be done by replacing the two-tier system with some combination of flat rate/ time-of-use pricing, at least for those residents such as myself.

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FORTIS BC™

Account Name: ANNETTE STAR
Billing Date: APR-11-2016
Billing Period: MAR-09-2016 to APR-11-2016

Previous statement	1,205.12	
Payment received Mar-21-2016 — Thank you	785.31CR	
Payment received Apr-01-2016 — Thank you	419.81CR	
Balance outstanding		0.00

Current Electric Charges
[redacted])

Monthly Residential Conservation Rate		
Rate Period 03/10/16 - 04/11/16 33 days		
Basic Customer Charge	15.62	
Energy Used Block 1: 800 kWh @ $0.09845/kWh	78.76	
Energy Used Block 2: 1,298 kWh @ $0.15198/kWh	197.27	
	291.65	
Taxes		
GST (5% on 291.65)	14.58	
	14.58	
Total New Charges		**306.23**
Amount Due		**$306.23**

Account Number
[redacted]
Due Date
MAY-04-2016
Amount Due
$306.23

Meter Reading Information
Meter Number: [redacted]

Apr 11 2016	024366	
Mar 09 2016	022268	
33 days	**2098**	**kWh**

Average current kWh/Day	64
Average previous year kWh/Day	39

Next reading on or about May 09 2016

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ELECTRICITY

Payment return slip
Payable at most financial institutions
Please write your account number on your cheque or money order payable to FortisBC - Electricity.

FORTIS BC™

Account Number
[redacted]
Due Date
MAY-04-2016
Amount Due
$306.23
Amount Paid

[redacted]

ANNETTE STAR
[redacted]

[redacted]

ELECTRICITY

FORTIS BC™

Account Name: ANNETTE STAR
Billing Date: MAR-09-2016 -- COPY
Billing Period: FEB-08-2016 to MAR-09-2016

Previous statement	785.31	
Balance outstanding		**785.31**
Late payment charge	11.77	

Current Electric Charges

[redacted]

Monthly Residential Conservation Rate		
Rate Period 02/09/16 - 03/09/16 30 days		
Basic Customer Charge	15.62	
Energy Used Block 1: 800 kWh @ $0.09845/kWh	78.76	
Energy Used Block 2: 1,936 kWh @ $0.15198/kWh	294.23	
	388.61	

Taxes

GST (5% on 388.61)	19.43	
	19.43	
Total New Charges		**419.81**
Amount Due		**$1,205.12**

Your payment is overdue and you may be removed from the Equal Payment Plan if payment is not received immediately. If you have already paid the outstanding amount, please disregard this notice.

Account Number
[redacted]
Due Date
APR-04-2016
Amount Due
$1,205.12

Meter Reading Information
Meter Number: [redacted]

Mar 09 2016	022268	
Feb 08 2016	019532	
30 days	**2736**	**kWh**

Average current kWh/Day	91
Average previous year kWh/Day	90

Next reading on or about Apr 11 2016

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ELECTRICITY

Payment return slip
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Please write your account number on your cheque or money order payable to FortisBC - Electricity.

FORTIS BC™

Account Number
[redacted]
Due Date
APR-04-2016
Amount Due
$1,205.12
Amount Paid

[redacted]

ANNETTE STAR
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]