

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 2N3Phone: 604-660-4700
BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385
Fax: 604-660-1102
www.bcuc.com**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

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

Name (first and last)

City

Province

Email

Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Neil Wilson

Date:

August 7 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.

To Whom It May Concern

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion concerning unfair billing practices by BC Hydro.

I live on an island that does not have access to gas service for home heating purposes. Therefore electric heat is essential and I am forced to pay a high rate when Step 2 kicks in at what I feel is an unjust level. My wife and I are pensioners living a very modest lifestyle and have no savings, so this practice is particularly hurtful, especially since these rates are among the highest in North America.

In addition we have come to feel that BC Hydro is already persecuting us because we have declined installation of a Smart Meter. We were compelled to decline due to health concerns voiced by medical professionals and numerous other experts on the matter. We have learned that the effects of the new meters may exacerbate medical conditions and chronic illnesses such as Lupus, which my wife has. We cannot take the chance that many experts are wrong and trust BC Hydro, who have not proven conclusively that Smart Meters are safe. They are charging us the highest rates anywhere to keep our analog meter and charge the fee monthly though they only take meter readings bi-monthly. We pay \$64 per bill, nearly \$400 per year. That is a huge amount for us especially considering the hardship we endure in paying a high premium because of the current low unfair Step 2 activation point.

Please carefully consider not allowing Hydro to continue these terrible abuses.

Thank you for your attention to this problem.

Sincerely
Neil Wilson