



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)

Donald Gamble

Date:

15-Aug-16

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.

Since 1963 the Yasodhara Ashram Society has been offering year-round retreats and courses on the east shore of Kootenay Lake. We are a registered charity that owns and operates 115 acres of land with 22 buildings, all serviced by FortisBC. We currently have 12 meters grouped into 3 FortisBC accounts.

In this remote, rural area of BC, we do not have access to natural gas to help reduce heating costs. Where we can, we use wood and pellet stoves but this is not conducive for most of our needs. We are forced to rely on electric heat. In this area of BC, it is a carbon-sensitive option. (We were officially certified Carbon Neutral in 2012).

We find that the current two-Block rate structure for residential consumption is too onerous to meet effectively. For example in 2011 /2012 we built 3 small, retreat cabins, all of which were certified as EnerGuide 81 or better. Yet we can not reasonably keep our consumption under the Block 1 rate break point of 1,600 kWh.

We therefore petition the BCUC to reconsider the current FortisBC Residential Conservation Rate structure, especially as it applies to remote, rural areas that are not serviced by natural gas.

We suggest that the BCUC consider eliminating the 2-Block structure altogether or consider raising the Block rate break point to something higher than the current 1,600 kWh so that it better reflects the responsible use of power by an ordinary household where other sources of heat, such as natural gas, are not available.

Thank you

Yasodhara Ashram Society

