British Columbia Utilities Commission

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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: BC Hydro Rate Consultation forum (re Step 2 Premium Charge)

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

Ronald Sturm	
[redacted]	BC
[redacted]	[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): Ronald Sturm	15 August, 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.

When we built our retirement home about 10 years ago, we were advised by all the "experts" to install electric hydronic in-floor heating because reasonable BC Hydro rates made it more cost-effective than other heating systems. Since then, the residential BC Hydro rates have climbed astronomically, including Step 2 premium charges that are among the highest on our entire continent. The decision to raise premium rates apparently did not take electricity for home heating into account. Our BC Hydro bills are now well into 4 figures (for 2 months) and this is not sustainable. We are ordinary retirees on fixed income. Our home is not exhorbitant or over-large or on water-front. We need a break on our electric heating bills, or perhaps a grant that can assist with installing a new system that is less expensive to operate.

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[Please write your comments in this box]

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