



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

RIB Electricity Rate

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Brad Flaman

City

Province

BC

Email

Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Brad Flaman

Date:

28-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.

My concerns for the RIB Rate is that it penalizes customers for not using natural gas. We live on the West Bench in Penticton, where natural gas exists, but was never brought to our home. We purchased the property before the RIB Rate was introduced, and saw no need to hook up to the gas line. The house had aérothermal heating/air conditioning, which is quite efficient. We renovated and added more aérothermal units, upgraded insulation, new water heater, LED lighting, windows (low-e) and doors. We wanted to make our home as efficient as possible. We took advantage of rebates from Fortis for the aérothermal units, doors, windows, fans, etc. After completion, the RIB Rate came into effect, and our hydro bills substantially increased.

For us to switch to gas, we would, at great expense, have to bring gas to the house, purchase a heat pump or furnace, install ducting throughout the house (two stories) by ripping apart finished ceilings and walls, remove the aérothermal units, install thermostats and a gas meter. And pay for the labour. We would never recover the costs of such an undertaking.

The RIB Rate is extremely unfair for residential users. It penalizes users for not having natural gas, whether it is accessible or inaccessible, and profits from it. In times when paycheques are already stretched, there leaves little room for the average family to put aside extra money for retirement, vacations or emergencies.

The only real solution is for the elected government to implement stricter guidelines as to how the RIB Rate is applied. The RIB Rate should be applied to those who do use natural gas and consume excessive amounts of electricity, since that is the main purpose of the program. Those who do not use natural gas and rely solely on electricity should be exempt altogether, since it is their only option for heating.