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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](mailto: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)

Jennifer Cope

Date:

29-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.

I am interested in the proceeding because I have been a customer, in four different areas of Vancouver Island , who does not have access to natural gas. Regardless of my incentive and attempts to manage consumption, during a cold winter in Parksville in an apartment in December -my electricity bill for that one month was \$172. That's one person in a two bedroom apartment. \$172. I can't imagine what the bill was for others in my complex with more than person. Or who can afford television, which must drive the bill higher.

I manage my electricity (and always have) quite rigorously, but the simple fact of the matter is that no matter how well I do so, I have never, ever, had a month between September to May where I did not reach Step 2.

I purchased a home on Denman Island recently so I do not have a full year of bills to refer to but I follow the 21 tips listed on the BC Hydro website to reduce usage. I have the hot water heater below 55 degrees to reduce usage there but I realize that could cause health issues.

I don't know why we don't have access to natural gas on the island(s) so I can't speak to that. Nor to Site C as I do not follow the news.

My recommendations? I would be okay with a slightly higher Step 1 cost and a higher (more reasonable) threshold to Step 2. I realize there were studies done to determine the Step 2 threshold but I feel strongly that if we only have one option (ie: no access to alternate providers) then the current Step 2 threshold should be revisited.