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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)

G. Richardson

Date:

1 Sep 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.

I am a rural Fortis customer without access to natural gas, and a senior with a limited fixed income. My 2008 home was constructed and equipped to be as green and energy efficient as possible: orientation, insulation, windows, Energy Star appliances, electrical forced air furnace, heat pump and electrical in-floor space heating. The cost of geothermal or solar energy was prohibitive and I did not want to enlarge my carbon footprint by installing a wood burning heating source. Every winter I regret this last decision as the cost of home heating has increased exponentially.

I have kept records of my daily electrical usage since 2008. At that time the cost per kWh was \$0.07078. By July 2012 the rate had increased to \$0.9447. RIB came into effect at that time with Block 1 rates at \$0.8136 and Block 2 rates at \$0.11769. Since, there have been almost constant bimonthly cost increases, so the current rates are now \$0.09845 and \$0.15198 respectively. The problem is the 1600 kWh Block 1 ceiling which equates to approximately 26 kWh per day. Staying under 26 kWh per day is achievable on sunny days with outside temperatures above 20C. Living at an altitude of over 1100m, BC Okanagan weather allows me to stay under 1600 kWh only for the July-September billing period. During the November-March period approximately 72% of the energy charge is at the Block 2 rate. Heating requirements resulting in electrical usage is very weather dependent: outside temperature and cloud cover.

A 2012 energy evaluation resulted in an EnerGuide Rate of 85, which could be increased to 86 with the installation of an HRV. I do not need Fortis to assist me in managing my power consumption or help me with 'financial incentives' which in reality are exorbitant electricity charges. I follow their energy saving tips, keep the thermostat uncomfortably low, in the winter wear so many clothes in the house that I waddle, and still pay a significant portion of my income on electricity.

In terms of heating, time of use billing may be advantageous to those with hydronic radiant floor heating or wood burning systems, but not for those with electric heating. A fairer system would be to raise the Block 1 ceiling for those without access to natural gas. Fortis states 71% of the BC population is not affected by tiered pricing. With the current 21st century technology, it should be possible for Fortis figure out where and who the remaining 29% of the population are that are greatly affected by this policy, and implement a fairer system.