

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 2N3

Phone: 604-660-4700
BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385
Fax: 604-660-1102
www.bcuc.com



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)

Peter Hefti

Date:

2-Sep-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.

We appreciate this opportunity to be able to comment on the two tier electrical rates applicable today. ■■■

■■■■■ we have no access to natural gas and are therefore dependent on electricity for all our energy needs. The impact on us has been substantial as most of electrical usage is charged at the higher rate. From looking at our electrical bills, two thoughts occur to us:

One, the threshold of the step to the higher rate is very low, as even in summer the low rate only applies to 20.8% of electrical use vs 79.2% for the higher rate. Total bill is **\$ 597.37**

Jun 11 to Aug 11, 2015	Step 1	1376 kW.h @ .07970/kW.h	109.67
	Step 2	3494 kW.h @ .11950/kW.h	417.53

Two, at the substantially higher usage in winter when the low rate applies to only 7.8% and 92.2% is at the higher rate. Total bill is **\$ 1,592.28**

Dec 10 to Feb 10, 2016	Step 1	1398 kW.h @ .07970/kW.h	111.42
	Step 2	11029 kW.h @ .11950/kW/h	1,317.97

We do not know on what basis these steps have been chosen; I seem to recall when they were introduced that step one was the consumption for a typical house with access to natural gas. I simply cannot believe this as we use more than three times in summer and our house, while comfortable is not excessively large. We were aware when we purchased the house in 2002 that electrical heating is somewhat more costly than natural gas, but now the cost difference has been totally distorted. But, without natural gas available, we have no choice and are at the mercy of the electrical provider. This, in our view, makes for a strong case that areas without natural gas should get a rebate or the total consumption should be at Step 1 price.

Yours very truly

Peter Hefti