

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 2N3Phone: 604-660-4700
BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385
Fax: 604-660-1102
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

BCUC Rib Rate Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Brian Novak

City

Province

BC

Email

Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Brian Novak

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.

This is regarding comments on the B.C. Hydro Two tier utilities rates.

I have been a customer of our B.C. electrical power supplier for 20 years, though born in Richmond in '53. I benefited from my fathers provision of paying the electric bill, we heated with oil. I listened to my parents and their admiration for W.A.C. Bennett and his vision for the benefits to the economy of B.C. in having low electric rates and the subsequent boost to the rest of the provincial economy.

Our neighbourhood was expropriated, I moved to the neighbouring farm, and when our power was cut in clearing the land, I had to provide for myself. We then leased the land, and I lived far from the hydro pole, later reconnected at the front of the farm.

It was more economic to just generate my own power with a propane and / or a gas generator. While I was intermittently running those noisy engines, I would charge the multiple batteries in each home , garage & shed. That lasted **eighteen years**, and gradually improved the system with Photovoltaics and a few inverters.

I was attending **UBC** studying in the field of **Ecology and Engineering**.

There was a home that was being purpose built, in the mid 80's to be electrically heated and well insulated. I moved into that house 20 years ago, and have mainly heated it with electricity since then. [REDACTED]

A Natural gas line is only 800 m. away, never brought down my road to service 100 homes. I understand the value of Hydro power Generation, for our Island, where two of my Grandparents were born in Victoria 1895. I am pleased with the ongoing improvement of the Hart Dam in C.R., and think some additional winter rain retention is possible in the Comox lake watershed. Expensive but worthwhile investments.

I grew up with the promises of the new technologies possible, perhaps using certain nuclear technologies to produce electrical power that would "*be too cheap to measure*".

New safe nuclear technology for this Island would also be a good investment, After thorough cost / benefit / risk assessments.

My complaint with the two tier metering rate , since it's enactment, is that any house primarily heated with electricity is going to be paying the higher rate for three of our four seasons.

My home is owned and mortgage free, but I cannot keep up with my bills, and am frequently warned about my power will soon be disconnected. It is now conveniently done with a keyboard command, yet it was only recently that I was receiving the

threatening letters that a weekend reconnection charge of \$385., would apply for a Sunday reconnect.

I am glad that fee is now matching the actual cost of a keystroke and the bother to the corporation of restoring essential benefits of modern civilization. [You good folks, are also retaining \$700 of my \$, as backup].

I am also aware that similar commands can redirect our electrical supply to California in an instant, and there is the temptation to go for those promised big bucks.

I know we don't get full payment sometimes, but the citizens of this Province should be the first priority, than the balance of payments with our national neighbours.

My first relatives arrived on the Mayflower in 1620, and I appreciate America & the inventive spirit of Edison & Westinghouse, (and their disagreements).

Our line crews are always restoring winter outages, maybe because of the rumor a linesman live nearby. They earn their money as much as those downtown execs in the over \$ 100,000 club.

I would like to summarize that some accommodation needs to be made for single family homes, with only electricity to available for heating.

Please notify Fortis and the companies supplying methane and other short chain hydrocarbons that we are a easy market for their piped products.

Until then we need a break from excessive electron pricing.

Thank you for asking,
Brian Novak