

October 6, 2016

Ms. Laurel Ross  
Acting Commission Secretary  
British Columbia Utilities Commission  
Sixth Floor – 900 Howe Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

by: email – commission.secretary@bcuc.com

Dear Ms. Ross:

**RE: Project No. 3698869**  
**British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or Commission)**  
**British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)**  
**F2017-F2019 Revenue Requirements**

RE: Response - Roger Bryenton and BC Hydro Ratepayers Association participation as  
“intervener” status in BC Hydro Revenue Requirements Application.

It is most unprofessional and inappropriate for BC Hydro to challenge and attack the BC Hydro Ratepayers and Roger Bryenton, one of the directors land facilitators. The Ratepayers association is a public forum for electricity customers in BC, plus others with expertise or concerns, with thoughts and ideas to share relevant to keeping rates low, using electricity efficiently, selection of power supplies based upon BC Hydro’s own criteria of “least-cost” and “incremental”, appropriate billing practices, cost controls, etc, all factors in operating a responsive and progressive electricity supply system.

If BC Hydro were in fact a responsible, progressive utility:

- it would not ignore its own criteria in project selection, and in fact would select “incremental” and “least cost” options, such as conservation and small, renewable projects,
- it would have an effective forum in-built into its structure, and not need an outside influence such as BC Hydro Ratepayers.
- it would have a Board of Directors including low-income earners, small businesses, small power suppliers, and leading innovators in conservation
- it would be open to customer concerns and suggestions,
- it would not be mean and aggressive in attempts to discredit or demean well-intentioned discussions of policy,
- nor would it tolerate such behavior from employees, executives or other representatives pretending to “speak for BC Hydro”.

On what authority is this recent attack on the Ratepayers and Mr. Bryenton approved and condoned by all of the customers?

As in BC Hydro’s last attack on Roger Bryenton’s application to intervene in the Rate Design hearings, BC Hydro’s research is erroneous and incomplete. Last time, BC Hydro purported that I was not a resident nor an electricity customer of BC Hydro, both of which were wrong.

Why is BC Hydro so averse to having honest, widespread input, to having an interested group of customers and others who desire nothing more than to guide the utility in progressive directions? Does the Ratepayers Association fully represent all users? Is this an essential criterion for any association?

Does BC Hydro fully represent all users? NO! As proof, there are almost 100,000 signatures from people opposing the absurd Site C power project. There are over 350 scholars and scientists that have written opposing the Site C project. How then, does BC Hydro purport to “represent the opinions of customers”? That is a lie! When both the Chair of the Joint Review Panel that assessed the need for the Site C and a former CEO of BC Hydro strongly oppose the project, how can BC Hydro pretend to “represent” customers. Another lie that BC Hydro is using is the lie of Site C being a “clean energy project”. It is not “clean”, it is an environmental disaster.

The Ratepayers association members, as part of the various discussions on a web-site, raises important issues that BC Hydro does not want raised: that is one purpose of the association, called “public input”, a term BC Hydro does its best to stifle and suppress. If one person, Scott Donovan, (whom may be a BC Hydro employee or other “troll”) decides to leave the group, and BC Hydro in the 12 page submission to BCUC demanding that The Ratepayers and Mr. Bryenton should not be eligible to participate chooses to focus on this one person for several of the 12 pages, the question must be asked, why would BC Hydro focus on such a situation? What does it matter if a person, or persons, want to leave?

This attack on the Association and Mr. Bryenton is a totally inappropriate action by BC Hydro, which is acting as a “bully”, essentially attacking a person, and a group he is involved with. It is completely unethical for such an attack on both an individual and a community forum, a group desiring nothing more than improvement and effectiveness of a utility which has not fully demonstrated “leading edge” utility practices. Generally “change” is only identified through “new ideas” and dissention. Without different opinions, public thinking does not change, and “better ways” do not occur. “Dissention” is essential. Consensus breeds continuation of policies long ago discarded by progressive thinking; “Dissensus” fosters growth and change, an area unfamiliar for BC Hydro.

To clearly demonstrate that the Ratepayers Association is not being unduly singled out for an attack on intention and desire to influence BC Hydro, would BC Hydro please provide all the challenges that they have made against the eligibility of all the other associations and their being represented, and individuals participating in the present and past BCUC hearings, and all of the responses to these challenges? Will BC Hydro also supply the evaluation method(s) and results of the evaluations performed on these other associations as to eligibility and percentage of representation which the other associations represent?

In the spirit of a desire and intention for utility input and guidance, BC Hydro Ratepayers Association respectfully requests being allowed to participate as an intervener, as an “upgrade” from merely “interested party”. To only allow “interested party” status, would be to disallow the association members the opportunity to better participate, and to increase the level of interest in utility practices and providing further guidance and influence on identifying and implementing “leading-edge” practices. Most of the responses to the BCUC request have been favourable, to allow the Ratepayers to participate. We trust that the BCUC will agree.

The BCUC is also requested to direct BC Hydro to conduct its written and spoken public communications in a professional and respectful manner, unlike this present situation of intimidation and attack by BC Hydro.

Sincerely

Roger Bryenton

Director, BC Hydro Ratepayers Association