



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

Residential two-tier electricity rates

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Steven Hill

City

Province

BC

Email

Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Steven Hill

Date: Oct 21 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.

Like many British Columbians, I am interested in reducing my carbon footprint. To that end, several years ago I added a heat pump to my home heating system. The heat pump carries most of the load of heating the house, using the existing gas heat only as backup for colder weather when the heat pump is not capable of warming the house. Thus my gas usage (and therefore my carbon footprint) has been greatly reduced.

However, since the heat pump has been installed I have seen constant increases in electricity rates, while the cost of gas has remained constant or decreased. Although the heat pump is very efficient, winter electricity costs have soared because the increased load of heating puts a significant portion of the electricity bill into the second tier. My concern is that the combination of increased rates and the two tiered system is going to make my heat pump either equivalent in cost to heating with gas or possibly even more expensive. I am sure I am not the only home-owner facing this dilemma, and it is possible that many home-owners, looking at the economics of heat pumps under the current pricing regime, will opt not to install heat pumps and just stick with gas. Ultimately this will make it more difficult for BC to reach its targets for cutting greenhouse gases. I don't have a solution to this problem other than for BC Hydro to provide some reduced rate incentives to homeowners who have installed heat pumps.