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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](mailto: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)

Ed Aiken

City

Province

BC

Email

Phone number

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Date:

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 have attached my e-mail dated Oct. 20, 2016.

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Commission Secretary BCUC:EX](#)  
Subject: residential rates  
Attachments: [81194 Solar and Renewable Energy Planning in BC.eml.msg](#)

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Secretary,

When the two rates came in, BC Hydro used condos and other small units to determine the average consumer usage. Had they taken the average based on a single family detached house with three bedrooms, two children and all the appliances needed to run a household, their figures would have shown a much more realistic consumption rate. The increase impacted everyone who owned a washer and dryer, a fridge and freezer, kitchen appliances etc. Those who live in condos are not on a well, have a garden that produces vegetables hence the need for a freezer such as we have, plus all the other amenities needed to run a house. I guess Hydro thinks we are living high on the hog. We are not. It is called living a normal life and we bought into their advertising from a time ago that electricity was more affordable than other sources. We are paying for the change of heart now that they are extolling the affordability of natural gas( when you destroy the environment by having to frack for gas, it is not natural ).

Hydro has done these rate increases at the behest of the Government in order to pay the Government their due. That is one of the reasons of many that Hydro is so much in debt and why the consumer is going to be hit with higher and higher rates. Almost free electricity will be supplied to the oil and fracking industry and to the ludicrous LNG plants that may some day fulfill the promises of the Premier, maybe even in our lifetime. Who gets to pay for this? The residential consumer will.

I tried to read the Hydro submission in your site but, as usual, they throw so many facts and charts that the laymen can not make any sense of it. I did see the use of the possibility of going to time of day but could not make out if they were serious about this. I have attached a letter from the Ministry that I received regarding my suggestion that there was not a need to build Site "C", which the commission was shut out of by the Government. They were afraid that you might say something different.

I thought that by creating a solar industry it would be a boost to the economy and employment. The letter included Hydro's thoughts on this and I was also not able to understand what they deluged me with.

In order to reduce our electricity consumption, we have turned down the in-floor heating to 60 degrees and rely heavily on wood heat to deny Hydro grabbing more of our pension monies. When Hydro gets privatized because they are running the public utility into a very serious debt load that will longer be manageable, I expect our rates will become the highest in North America. There will be no ability to return Hydro back into a public utility and they will have no oversight. The consumer loses on all fronts, again.

Thank you,

Ed Aiken

[REDACTED] BC



**From:** [Buchanan, Jack MEM:EX](#)  
**To:** ["eaiken@telus.net"](mailto:eaiken@telus.net)  
**Subject:** 81194 Solar and Renewable Energy Planning in BC  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2013 3:27:26 PM

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Dear Mr. Aiken:

Your August 26, 2013 email addressed to Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines, regarding BC Hydro's power plans and solar energy has been forwarded to me for response.

The Provincial Government supports renewable energy. The *Clean Energy Act* already requires that at least 93 percent of British Columbia's electricity is generated from clean or renewable resources. In fact, in 2012, BC Hydro generated over 98 percent of its power from clean or renewable sources. With the current decreased demand in the provincial load forecast, there is a reduced need for power acquisitions over the short to medium term.

In recent years, BC Hydro has procured most of its electricity through competitive bidding processes that allow it to take advantage of the lowest-cost clean, renewable generation potential in British Columbia. Unfortunately, even the most competitive sources have significant costs. While wind, sun, geothermal, and some other sources of energy are freely available in nature, the costs of manufacturing and installing the equipment to convert them to electricity are substantial. BC Hydro has examined the potential for generation from these sources, most recently in Chapter 3 of its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) found at [https://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/meeting\\_demand\\_growth/irp/document\\_centre/reports/august-2013-irp.html](https://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/meeting_demand_growth/irp/document_centre/reports/august-2013-irp.html). As Table 3-26 notes, solar is the second-most expensive option available.

BC Hydro and the Ministry of Energy and Mines are both aware of programs in Germany, Ontario, and California. In fact, BC Hydro's net metering program (more information can be found at [https://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/acquiring\\_power/current\\_offerings/net\\_metering.html](https://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/acquiring_power/current_offerings/net_metering.html)) is similar to California's solar feed-in tariff (FIT). However, California's program also involved subsidies, about \$1,000 per kilowatt (kW) installed, for solar panels in a jurisdiction where weather and energy use patterns (where demand is highest on sunny afternoons) are much more favourable to solar than those in British Columbia (where demand is highest on winter evenings). It is difficult to compare this cost to what it would cost BC Hydro to purchase solar power, but the high up-front cost (before the cost of purchasing power through net-metering programs) is consistent with BC Hydro's comparison of supply-side resource options in the IRP. The FITs in Germany and Ontario, which did not have California's up-front subsidies, also suggest that rooftop solar is much more expensive than BC Hydro's current purchases. Germany's FIT pays about 25 cents per kW hour (kWh) generated by residential rooftop solar panels, while Ontario's FIT pays about 55 cents. By comparison, BC Hydro has been able to purchase clean and renewable power for prices around 12 or 13 cents per kWh.

Your letter also mentions smart meters being used for time of day billing. While utilities in some jurisdictions have used them for this purpose, the smart meter program will pay for itself without the need for time of use rates. The Government is not considering time of use rates for residential customers.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Buchanan  
Senior Economist, Generation and Regulatory Branch  
Electricity and Alternative Energy Division  
Ministry of Energy and Mines