



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

BC Hydro Utility Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Dave Ripmeester

City

[REDACTED]

Province

B.C.

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Dave Ripmeester

Date: Oct 27, 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.

My concern is with regard to the residential two-tier electricity rates.

As an individual constructing a home [REDACTED] in 2008 I was faced with the question of what options to pursue relative to the utilities available to service my home. Hydro was available with limited need for added infrastructure - a good option. Natural gas was available but not without a significant investment in extending the line to my construction site - a good option but requiring significant investment up front.

In consideration of the above, we decided to do our part and "go green" and chose a closed loop geothermal system. The payback for the system was lengthy, however a "green" household was thought to add to the cost/value consideration.

Shortly after making this choice and going with the costly investment in our green energy system - along came the shift to the two-tier electricity rates. Needless to say the added cost incurred by this shift would very likely have swayed our decision to go green and rely entirely on hydro for our utilities.

A couple of recommendations that I believe fit the request for comments:

- re-assess the basic threshold for shifting to the second tier - the threshold seems to come from an average created and weighted from households using more than one utility for their household needs (question - with regard to the threshold, is consideration given to location in the province as utility costs in the north are likely significantly higher on a per household basis?).
- to encourage the use of "green energy" some consideration could be given to a higher threshold for those using solely hydro without the use of other utilities.

I am not opposed to the concept of the two-tier electricity rates, however the second tier would be better served when applied to those who use electricity flagrantly or inefficiently. The existing scenario penalizes those who have invested in an energy efficient household, but do not rely on any other utility other than hydro.

I hope the above comments are applicable and useful.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.