



## 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)

ANDY PICKARD

City

Province

B.C.

Email

Phone number

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

ANDY PICKARD

Date:

NOVEMBER 2, 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.

I oppose the current two-tier rate scheme for electricity usage/charges. I live in an area not served by natural gas, so that power source is not applicable. My choices for home heating, both when I designed our home and now, are (hydro) electricity, heating oil and propane (delivered by truck, not pipelined). Both heating oil and propane are expensive, and contribute to green house gas emissions. Electricity in B.C. is primarily generated by hydro power, so has a lower GHG impact. Thus the current two-tier rate scheme for a house heated by electricity is punishing in winter months, no matter what efforts I take to minimize electrical consumption. Further, the current two-tier rate scheme does nothing to support B.C.'s initiative to reduce GHG emissions because it discourages use of electrical heating which has a lower 'carbon footprint'.

As background, to demonstrate that I have acted in a responsible manner with respect to energy usage:

- \* when we built our home in 2007, I designed it, and had it built (ICF construction), in a highly energy efficient manner specifically to minimize heating costs for the life of the house.
- \* although we have a relatively large area home, we fall into the 'non-high consumption' group of electrical users (and are consistently within tier 1 electrical usage during summer months when home heating is not required).
- \* We do not have air conditioning, a swimming pool or hot tub, multiple refrigerators or freezers, and our electrical hot water heater is in a lower living area that does require space heating, so no heat from the hot water tank is wasted.
- \* I minimize hot water usage, and air-dry laundry as much as possible.

Recommendation: The current two-tier rate scheme should be modified to allow a much higher tier 1 allowance during winter months for energy-efficient homes heated by electricity, especially in areas not serviced by natural gas.

Thank you for your consideration of public input.