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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. 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

Mary Beth

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

yes

Name (first and last)

Mary Beth VanderMeulen

City

[REDACTED]

Province

B.C.

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

To be submitted along with my letter about Residential inclining Block electricity rates with Fortis which was sent prior to this form being sent to me by Laurel Ross



October 19, 2016

Attention: Ms. Laurel Ross
Acting Commission Secretary

BCUC Log # 53951
RECEIVED

B.C. Utilities Commission
6th Floor – 900 Howe St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3

OCT 25 2016

Routing 50648

Dear Ms Ross:

I am replying to an advertisement in the Trail Times newspaper to send you information on how the two-tier rates for Fortis B.C. affect me as a customer.

I am delighted to do this since I have found the extra expense required to keep up with this system has adversely affected me as a single senior citizen living on a small pension.

Fortis must have been aware that they could double their revenue by doing this since the highest usage would obviously be required during the winter months when people had to use extra power in the form of heat.

I am not talking about excessive use, just normal heating of a home in the colder months. Since I live in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I can tell you heat is a necessary expense and not one I should need to be constantly worried about when Fortis decides to do something like this two-tier system. Why could they not just leave it the way it was before implementing this latest method to raise their income.

I certainly was not consulted previous to the two-tier system as to whether I would want it or not. I can tell you though that even before they did this with the last system, I was scrambling to find heat using the lowest wattage possible. I take saving money very seriously since I am forced to budget heavily for basic human necessities like food and heat and paying the other regular bills.

I can tell you they are not thinking of me as a senior trying to make ends meet. I have yet to see them offer a lower rate for seniors. Wouldn't that be something? Especially for those who have proven over and over that they are not using electricity excessively.

So now you know that I am very distressed by the higher rate of the two-tier system. I think they are more interested in stuffing their pockets than keeping their customers satisfied. Thank you for this opportunity to express myself about this issue. Now let's see if you actually do anything about it!

Sincerely:

MaryBeth VanderMeulen