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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. 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 Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party? Name (first and last) City Province Email Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Alex Ellison

Date:

14-Nov-16

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 will try to make my comments as simple as possible. I do understand hydro costs are always rising and BC needs improvements to the existing system and new sources of hydro production. I am on a limited income and have a single level 1500 sq ft home with gas home and water heat. As a single person living here I consume a very low amount of hydro. The only time I have entered the 2nd tier billing is in the summer when air conditioning is required, and last winter when my gas furnace was down for repair for 2 weeks. My complaint is that the 2nd tier billing starts at such a low amount that virtually every house with more than one person in it will enter the 2nd tier every month! I use a minimal amount of hydro, not leaving lights on that are needed and conserving as much as possible. A family of 2 or more, with kids, will use a minimum of 3-4 times the amount I do, so will always be paying more in the 2nd tier! To me this is totally unfair! The 2nd tier increase in billing should be set to start at a much higher amount and be variable as to how many are living in each house. We have a right to affordable hydro! Why was this tier system started in the first place? To force us to conserve I assume, but as above even using the minimal amount for 2-3 people will make the billing enter the 2nd tier every period! My sister and brother in law live in [REDACTED] Australia and they explained why they have a huge hot water tank. They have far cheaper rates at night than during the day so a large amount of water is heated at night at the cheaper rate and stored to supply daily needs. They don't have gas furnaces (and water heaters) as it doesn't get very cold but rely on heat pumps for heat and air conditioning. Maybe this tier system would work better here than the present one. More fair at least. I have asked my neighbors with families and their hydro costs took a huge increase with the tier system. They have to use way more hydro than me just for the basic needs for their family. Water for cooking, cleaning, bathing, laundry etc etc. It would be impossible for them to conserve enough to stay in the 1st tier. And for anyone without gas for heating I can imagine what the costs would be! So this 2 tier system needs a serious change to be fairer for us all! We shouldn't be gouged for our simple daily hydro needs! Thanks!