

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 2N3Phone: 604-660-4700
BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385
Fax: 604-660-1102
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

BCUC RIB Rate Report - BC Hydro Utility Report and FortisBC Utility Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

Yes, interested party

Name (first and last)

Gurmail Rai

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Gurmail Rai

Date:

November 22, 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 am a homeowner and have been a BC Hydro customer for the last 30 years. I have paid my bills regularly and on time. Many years ago, we were encouraged to use electricity instead of gas by the BC Government. At that time, Hydro was cheaper than gas, so I switched. Now, gas is cheaper and the price of electricity keeps going up and up. The worst part is that there is a two-tier system in electricity rates, which is the most unfair system in utilities. It is an unfair system that benefits the smaller home-owner who uses less electricity and penalizes the people who have bigger houses or larger families. My family and I are trying to save electricity by using less lights and staying environmentally conscious. We choose not to use the dishwasher and use the washer/dryer less to save money on our bills. All of the lights in my house are LCD and even those I make sure are turned off if they are not being used - my kids even call me 'cheap' for doing so! I have even replaced all of my sensor lights to LCD. Ironically, the more we try to save, the higher our bills go up, regardless of our efforts. As a consumer, I do not mind if BC Hydro needs to increase the bills, since this is a thought-out system. However, I find it difficult to understand why the system cannot be the same for everyone, regardless of a threshold. With this two-tiered system, I cannot seem to understand where I am not using my electricity wisely. I strongly oppose this two-tier system - make it equal for every household, even if it means increasing rates by a small margin. I feel lucky that we have a government-owned electricity system and am glad that we have BC Hydro, but I feel that this inequality needs to be stopped.