

# 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.

Residential Inclining Block Rates

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party? *No*

Name (first and last): Greg Blackwell	
City: [REDACTED]	Province: BC
Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]

The BC Utilities Commission is authorized to collect and publish a person or organization's personal information when they participate in a matter before the Commission under sections 26(c) and 33.1(r)(ii) and (iii) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). Subject to FOIPPA, all documents filed in respect to an application will be placed on the public record.

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last): Greg Blackwell

Date: November 23, 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.

We are writing to complain about the rate increases implemented and proposed by our local electricity supplier Fortis BC. We seldom write these types of letters but feel compelled to do so in light of these unacceptable increases.

We are retired and on a single fixed income. We allow for inflationary impacts in our annual budgets but have had to do part time work to accommodate these types of unreasonable increases. Our house is only six years old and we had all energy efficient Energy Star appliances installed, along with a Heat Pump as our primary heat source (which we do not run in the summer). We live on the East Shore of ██████████ where there is no natural gas supply as an alternative energy option.

In 2012 our annual electricity costs were \$1882. That particular winter we had problems with our heat pump and estimate that our costs were probably at least \$200 higher than they normally would have been. In 2013 our annual electricity costs were \$2620. We had no problems and were in fact gone for more than 3 weeks in the middle of winter – i.e. minimal heat, and no use of appliances etc. This represents an increase of 39%. If we factor in the \$200 then the increase is 56%. How you can expect us to handle this type of increase with no change to our usage and no other options at this time? We feel strongly that these rate increases and the two-tier structuring have been an unfair treatment of ourselves and many residences on the east shore.

We would appreciate any opportunity to discuss how these energy rates and resources can be better accommodated with or without the help of Fortis BC.