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www.b cuc.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

Nelson Hydro 2017 Rate Increase Application

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

William Hamilton

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

William Hamilton

Date:

March 14, 2017

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.

Please accept this as my Letter of Comment to the Nelson Hydro's 2017 Rate Application.

As a small farm owner, using heat lamps, incubating eggs, chicks, everything involved in having chickens, plus heaters to melt ice for livestock feeders, barn electricity etc., its no longer viable to continue, costs and particularly these electrical costs have made it uneconomic to continue.

When I built my house electricity was the go to energy, we all bragged about our cheap electricity as if it were the cheapest in the province, I believe it once was, Nelson had the first hydro electric plant in the province.

My son built his house on the farm in 2010 when electricity was still the go to choice vs gas. Now that he has a full electric house had he known how much power costs were going to increase he would have connected to gas. An expensive if not impossible option to retrofit.

What concerns me is the limited time I have to submit my letter of comment. The first time I saw an ad was the March 7, 2017 edition of the local Pennywise. It states the 4.28% rate increase is effective April 1, 2017. I hardly think this is enough advance notice for anyone to submit, never mind your department to hear or see these and make decisions accordingly.

When I go to your BCUC website regarding the Nelson hydro rate application I see a letter from you stating Nelson hydro must insert an ad in display format as shown attached to your exhibit A-1.

This was seen by me Mar. 9th, in the Mar. 7 edition of the local Pennywise. That leaves me about 8 business days to visit city hall or request some information from Nelson hydro.

What I have discovered is Nelson hydro rates will have increased over 44% since 2009. Something that I certainly see reflected in my electric bills. As someone who attempts conservation, I have made attempts at reducing electric usage with high efficiency lights, timers, insulation and yet I achieve nothing but another increase annually. The basic rate of what was about \$10, now looking like its going to be nearly \$16, removes all incentives and attempts at conservation. If the basic rate didn't increase, I could see some results from my conservation attempts. As it is its discouraging.

A letter of response to the BCUC from Nelson Hydro Public Consultation Exhibit B-1 states

Print Newspaper ads will be run advising of planned rate change and how comment can be provided to Nelson Hydro. Ads running from Feb. 13th through Feb 24th 2017.

From Feb. 13th through Feb 24th the only print ad I can find is a public notice announcing Nelson hydro rate increases, the ad is about 2 in x 2 in up in a corner hardly bringing attention to the reader.

Your display ad clearly shows in a large ad covering 8 inches x 7 inches over 2 thirds of the page where one can submit in multiple ways, letter of comment, interested party, or intervenor status.

Here I am writing this on Tuesday Mar. 14, 2017. At least I was able to discover some information regarding why my electric bills are continually increasing no matter what I try to do to reduce them. A little more time would be helpful instead of this pressure to submit by March 20th.

Thank you for the opportunity, I was speaking with a friend who lives in the city, he has no opportunity to respond, this puzzles both of us. Why can't city residents respond?

Thank You
Bill Hamilton