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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)

Beatrice Shumey

Date:

March 14th 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.

I am complaining about a proposed rate increase to rural Hydro by Nelson Hydro. As a senior on a fixed income, the increase proposed is suggesting a rate increase of 4.28%. which is considerably more than OAS and CPP has increased. In the application it says that power purchase is set to decrease. It also says that the line with Operating costs will be funded by the RDCK for \$204,000. It also says that 1.67% or \$89,000 will be transferred to the long term capital requirements of the city of Nelson including water reserve. How does this help rural residents? In the whole application it does not say what will be improved for rural residents and if any contingent will be allocated to Area E, of which I am a resident. Why are we being asked to fund an unaffordable increase for Seniors in rural areas when no part of it appears to be improving any services in our area?

Personally I have gone out of my way to purchase 5 new energy efficient appliances in the last few years, and I have lowered my indoor temperature by 2* to conserve energy, as well as other cost saving measures such as replacing light bulbs and unplugging unused appliances. We have also replaced our hot water tank with a 95% high efficiency hot water on demand boiler that we were unable to have qualified for a rebate from Fortis.... because it isn't classified as a hot water heater. That in itself was disappointing for a \$6000.00 cost to us.

Here are some recent comparisons

Dec. 2014 billing: 65.90 kwh per day = \$6.19 per kwh	total bill. \$408.32
Aug. 2015 billing: 40.14 kwh per day = \$5.96 per kwh	total bill. \$ 239.94
Dec. 2015 billing: 61.82kwh per day = \$ 6.13 per kwh	total bill. \$324.90
Aug.2016 billing: 38.67kwh per day = \$6.53 per kwh	total bill. \$248.45
Dec. 2016 billing 51.27 kwh per day = \$6.33 per kwh	total bill 360.82

From the billing period of December 2014 to billing period of December 2016 you can see that my consumption has been reduced by 14.63KWH per day.

The cost at that time of year has increased by 14 cents per kwh over two years despite reducing my usage by 14.63 kwh per day.

I am trying to keep my costs down but they are increasing beyond what I can afford in order to live comfortably in my home all year round which is what our government is promoting.

As a senior, on a fixed income, an increase of 4.27% would have increased my December bill to \$376.22 and over the same billing period from 2016, increased my hydro bills by \$91.40 for a total \$2232.02

My Old Age Pension will have an increase of \$84.00 for 2016.

This proposed increase is asking me, a Senior Citizen to spend \$6.00 more per year on JUST my Hydro than what I will be receiving on my OAS and this does not include other increases I will be facing for food, fuel, shelter and other expenses. I am totally disapproving this or any increases, because I am clearly reducing my consumption by being energy efficient, and yet it is costing me an ever increasing amount for my hydro.

I recommend that:

- 1) the rates be decreased to reflect the decreasing price of the product.
- 2) Nelson Hydro explains what portion of that 4.67% will come to Area E
- 3) Nelson Hydro suggest where next a Senior can make cuts to pay for this proposed increase.

Sincerely
Beatrice Shumey