
Date Submitted: February 10, 2018

Proceeding name: FortisBC Inc. 2017 Cost of Service Analysis & Rate Design

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: No

Name (first and last): Larry Doell

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Comment:

In 1998 we built our house in Rossland. Due to our rural location, natural gas wasn't available. With a \$1500 grant from FortisBC's predecessor, we installed a geo-thermal heating system with 3000' of buried pipe, interfaced with a heat pump which heats our floors. The heat pump is on a 30 amp circuit. The walls and ceiling have R40 insulation. The windows are located for maximum solar heating, with only 2 small windows facing north. The roof is flat, retaining snow for its insulating qualities. With a 50% rebate from Fortis, all 28 interior pot lights were replaced with LEDs. We had a Fortis sponsored Energy Efficiency Audit done on our home. It was found to be 83% efficient, with 86% being the highest attainable given the amount of window glazing. We then stuccoed over 2 windows to increase efficiency! My complaint about the two tier rating is that it is purportedly to create an incentive for more energy efficient houses. It does not take into account that houses designed like ours, that are already energy efficient, cannot be affordably improved. Our home could have been more efficient if it had hadn't been built on just one level. It was built on one level because my wife is unable to use stairs. The 2 tier rating should be called a luxury or consumption tax because even energy efficient houses, above a certain size, cannot heat themselves within the Tier 1 threshold. The current system punishes users in efficient, but large homes and also punishes those in inefficient homes that need to be improved. Utilities should revert back to a single tier rate. There are better ways to encourage people to improve efficiency. ,