

Date Submitted: February 12, 2018

Proceeding name: Nelson Hydro 2018 Rate Application

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

Name (first and last): Len Folkard

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Province: British Columbia

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Comment:

I don't believe the residents of Nelson are aware of the situation. Please see attached letter

Having lived in Nelson all my life, now retired, we once bragged about our cheap electricity. Its now become a major household expense.

Having read the “Final Order with Reasons” for last years rate application, Order #G-119-7 and seeing so many unresolved questions, I don't feel comfortable that the mechanism of mayor and council watch dogging our electric rate increases is working.

Its not popular to raise taxes, electric rates are far easier.

The order speaks to NH over forecasting. Yet even resetting as it states it still was about \$1M over forecast. It goes on to say “existing ratepayers are paying more as a result”. Could this have a lot to do with recent years rate hikes?

Nelson hydro pays 10% of city admin costs, use to have two managers and one admin staff, and a large line crew. One admin staff hardly constitutes ten percent of city admin costs.

Now I believe its turned over, more managers and few line crew.

This first time in over two decades intervenor coincidentally aligns with a bookkeeping change so NH bookkeeping is more in line with a public electric utility makes me uncomfortable with the timing. Resulting in delayed ability of NH to answer BCUC questions. Along with this a “new mechanism” deals with a \$320,000 under budget transfer, half to dividend and the other to Capital Reserves.

2016 was a very strong year, operational and maintenance budgets are down, big capital costs are behind yet rates are still going up when Fortis and BCH are at 0%.

And what benefit to the ratepayers is NH consulting for Grand Forks city electric? Might this not be responsible for extra staff now employed at NH that might cost more than the benefit?

I think the line between the city and Nelson hydro is blurred, resulting in Nelson hydro funding a lot of city costs that results in increased electric rates.

I would like to see an audit of Nelson hydro clearly defining what all seems to now be a blur which is resulting in a bookkeeping change that is too coincidental for my comfort that this city and Nelson hydro are unable to answer BCUC questions in last years Orders and Reasons.

Len Fokard

