

**Date Submitted:** February 24, 2018

**Proceeding name:** Nelson Hydro 2018 Rate Application

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

**Name (first and last):** Tom Yasek

**City:** [REDACTED]

**Province:** British Columbia

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Phone number:** [REDACTED]

**Comment:**

Deeply concerned and disappointed about Hydro rate increases

As a second generation now retired rural Nelson hydro customer, I have seen what once was very cheap electricity become a major expense.

The recent public budget meeting about rate increases had little to do with that and everything to do with promoting Nelson hydro.

The meeting started at 630pm and until about 730pm different hydro departments gave an update on what they had accomplished and were planning.

I heard about EcoSave rebates, the recent flyover of an aircraft so we can have thermal imaging of our homes. Next, the line supervisor speaking to various accomplishments. Then it was the office administrator speaking to how much work last years intervention required. Finally some discussion about COSA for rural costs.

When it came to questions, I thought the mayor sitting in the back row was out of line interjecting whenever she felt it necessary. And no real answers were supplied, there was mention of a \$2.7M dividend to the city. One questioner asked about the \$800,000 bonus money earned from last years extended spring freshet, and the \$143,000 in power sales last year and how this differed. The manager appeared to have no knowledge of this and said nothing.

If BC Hydro and Fortis rates are 0% this year, and Nelson hydro revenues around \$16M annually, that \$800,000 being about 5% of annual income should take care of any need for this years increase.

I didn't know Nelson hydro funded 10% of the cities administration costs, my knowledge is Nelson hydro once had two managers and a secretary, those costs hardly in my estimation would equate to 10% of the cities administration costs.

Although I understand in recent years the ratio of management to workers at Nelson hydro has become inverted. Now contractors are doing most of Nelson hydro work.

Being the first time in decades Nelson hydro has had the BCUC involved for us rural ratepayers, and reading last years Reasons and Orders, I note BCUC has many unresolved questions.

I can't help but wonder if my rural Nelson hydro bill is helping to fund part of the cities costs rather than representing just my electric bill. My request would be for an audit to regain my confidence that my Nelson hydro bill isn't a partial hidden tax to the city.