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**From:** Jayne Priest [jaynepriest@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2013 6:57 AM  
**To:** Commission Secretary BCUC:EX  
**Subject:** BC Hydro Smart Meter Choices Program  
**Attachments:** To BCUC on Hydros application.rtf

Attached is my submission concerning my interest in BC Hydro's application. I have registered as an intervener. I am representing myself but believe I am speaking in the interest of many residents of British Columbia. Please review my submission and advise me if I need to add anything. Thank you Jayne Priest

To BCUC on Hydro's rate increase for reading meters that are not smart meters, called the BC Hydro Smart Meter Choices Program

To: British Columbia Utilities Commission

Re: Proposed fee for reading meters that are not smart meters (analog or digital)

I would like to officially register my opposition to BC Hydro's application to BCUC to charge a monthly fee to people that have not accepted smart meters.

I would also like to register as an intervener so that I will be kept up to date regarding the proceedings. Please let me know if you require any additional paperwork or if there is any further way to voice my concerns regarding Hydro's application.

My concerns are that the proposed charge of \$35/month is excessive considering the following:

1. First of all meters are not read every month. It's common knowledge that Hydro reads meters every 2nd month, not monthly. The date of the next reading is stated on bills, and usage is estimated for the alternate months. Hydro told me they were estimating when I had a bill discrepancy, which turned out to be from the estimate, and not actual electrical usage. Meters clearly do not need to be read monthly. Hydro has operated like this for years. How can BCUC allow Hydro to charge a monthly fee for reading meters when meters are not read every month and there is no monthly cost?
2. The cost of reading meters is really quite low. From what I understand meter readers are paid \$5.50 per meter to read meters every 2 months, for a cost of \$33.00 per meter per year. This cost is so low it's covered in my bill, and is not a separate fee. Hydro's proposal to charge \$35.00 per month for a total of \$420.00 per year per meter is excessive considering the cost of reading meters.
3. Currently, if a customer has an issue with bi-monthly readings or usage estimates, Hydro allows the customer to read the meter themselves and phone in the actual reading. I know this because a friend of mine has this arrangement with Hydro. The cost of reading meters could be reduced further if meters were read at a longer interval such as quarterly and the months between were estimated, or customers were allowed to call in their meter readings directly to Hydro (or even email a photograph of it).
4. Several Hydro customers have more than one meter. At my residence there are two meters. One is for my residence and the other is for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the duplex. To give you some idea of the context. This home was built long before smart meters, computers and their technological interfaces were even conceived of and is not designed to deal with it. I must speak up because these meters are located on my bedroom wall. The installation of smart meters here would violate even the basic standards of Safety Code 6. If BCUC allows Hydro to charge \$35.00 per meter, they will charge me \$70.00 per month for these meters, just by virtue of their location on the house for which I am not responsible. This would add \$840.00 per year to my Hydro bill.
5. If the cost of reading meters is charged as a separate fee, and not included as part of my bill as it has been for the many years I have been a Hydro customer, the additional charge is essentially a rate increase to me. If I am charged for reading only one meter (which is unlikely) it would amount to a 49% rate increase. Both meters would amount to a 99% rate increase, and double my current

Hydro bill. Vancouver is a very expensive place to live. Paying an increase like this would cause undue hardship for me, as I'm sure it would to any one of you. I can't even imagine the amount of public outcry there would be if BC Hydro proposed a 49% to 99% overall rate increase to all it's customers and BCUC approved it. It's absolutely excessive and not within reason to propose such an increase.

6. The actual cost of maintaining and reading the existing meters is really quite low compared to the estimated one billion dollar investment and still counting that Hydro has made in the smart meter program. Hydro however proposes to provide and install “free” smart meters to program subscribers and bill customers who do not want to accept smart meters. Are these proposed fees not in fact subsidizing BC Hydro and it's expensive smart meter program and not the other way around?
7. Hydro is clearly not very happy with customers like myself who will not accept smart meters. British Columbians have legitimate concerns regarding their health, safety and privacy and are not satisfied with the lack of oversight and choice in the smart meter program. If there is one thing that BC Hydro has not allowed for here, it's choice. Hydro has spent a great deal of time attempting to bully us into submission, and now that that strategy has failed they are trying to make us pay. Hydro's proposed fee is excessive, punitive and amounts to a significant rate increase of up to 100% for customers like myself. After reading Hydro's letter, there is no doubt it's aimed again at trying to force customers into accepting a program that they do not want to subscribe to. In contrast to this approach, several other jurisdictions now have a no fee option for customers who do not want smart meters.

I trust that you will consider this submission carefully.  
Thank you.

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Jayne Priest

Applications

- Current Applications
- Archived Applications
- Create Application Profile

Documents

- Current Documents
- Submit Document

Users

- Current Users
- Registration
- Distributed List

Others

- Companies
- Maintain Dropdown Lists
- Maintain Document Types

Edit User

Last Name, First; e.g. Smith, John

Name\*: Priest, Jayne

Professional Designation:

Organization:

Job Title:

Representing:

User Type\*:  Applicant  Interested Party  Intervener  Other

Address\*: 3002 McBride Avenue

City\*: Surrey

Province\*: BC

Postal Code\*: V4A 3G7

Phone\*: 604 541-3016

Cell/Pager:

Fax:

Primary Email: jaynepriest@gmail.com

Email 2:

Email 3:

Email 4:

Role\*: EndUser

Empty text area for comments or notes.

Approved Status:  Approved? Only approved users will be allowed to access submit file function.

Save Cancel

\* - Required

Copy to:

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- 

Change user name and password

User Name\* (No Spaces): removed

Password\* (No Spaces):

Save

Active Energy Reconsideration A-1-13  
BC Hydro Application to Amend TS No 74 (GBL)  
BC Hydro Electric Tariff-OATT Price Indices Replacement  
BC Hydro MRS Assessment Report No 6  
BC Hydro OATT Ferc Order 764 Amendments  
BC Hydro PPA - RS 3808, TS No. 2 & 3  
**BC Hydro Smart Meter Choices Program**  
BCUC Generic Cost of Capital ~ Stage 1  
BCUC Generic Cost of Capital ~ Stage 2  
BCUC Proposed Regulatory Framework and Guide for TES Utilities  
Creative Energy Acquisition of Central Heat Distribution  
FEI Biomethane Post Implementation & Program Modification (2012 Biomethane  
FEI FEVI GSMIP 2013-2016  
FEI Performance Based Ratemaking Revenue Requirements 2014-2018  
FEU Common Rates, Amalgamation, and Rate Design Reconsideration Phase 2  
FEVI 2014 Revenue Requirements and Rates  
FortisBC Inc Purchase of the Utility Assets of the City of Kelowna ~ Phase 2  
FortisBC Inc Stepped and Stand-By Rates for Transmission Voltage Customers  
FortisBC Inc. AMI Radio-Off Meter Option  
FortisBC Inc. Performance Based Ratemaking Revenue Requirements 2014-201  
ICBC 2013 Revenue Requirements  
PNGNE CNG Virtual Pipeline DC TR CPCN

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PM