
From: John Hurd [ajhurd@telus.net]
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 7:39 AM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX
Subject: Re: NOTICE OF REGULATORY FILING - BCH Meter Choices Program - Extension Request

November 15, 2013

Ms. Erica Hamilton
Commission Secretary
British Columbia Utilities Commission Sixth Floor –
900 Howe Street Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

RE:

Project No. 3698760

British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC)

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)

Application for Approval of Charges Related to Meter Choices Program

Extension Request Re BC Hydro Interim Fees

In response to the request for an extension by BC Hydro I would like make a similar request to extend the commencement of interim charges for Legacy and Meter off Meters for the following reasons:

- 1.) To allow a fair and unbiased hearing into what would be reasonable charges, if any, to keep Legacy and meter off meters without the looming financial burden of what is clearly excessive charges designed to force financially strapped customers into accepting smart meters prematurely before an actual accounting and analysis by BCUC has taken place.
- 2.) To make the BCUC hearings receptive to the public and to maintain the integrity of the BCUC which is intended to work on behalf of the interests of BOTH the PUBLIC and BC Hydro.
- 3.) To correct the decision by BCUC to rubber stamp the BC Hydro request for these excessive interim charges and to recognize this situation is different from the normal process of rubber stamping BC Hydro's requests for interim rate increases which in comparison are relatively small when compared to an average apartment owners/renters monthly bill of \$20 / month
- 4.) To enable a proper hearing of what the appropriate charges should be if any without interference and customer coercion by BC Hydro prior to a decision By the BCUC
- 5.) To stop BC Hydro from using the interim charges as a method of financially strong arming its customers to accept smart meters, which it is currently doing, and to

establish a BCUC review that is not rendered irrelevant by the premature actions of BC Hydro which is currently undermining the process and legitimacy of the BCUC by contacting every individual who has not accepted the smart meters and warning them they will be facing these excessive fees if they do not accept the smart meters by DEcember 1st. This is simply WRONG and is not in keeping with the intention nor the long standing integrity of the BCUC to allow this to happen.

6.) To allow the public to have a fair and proper hearing of what the charges should be if any BEFORE they have to make a financial decision as to whether they can afford the additional costs if any.

Erica, I apologize if I have been redundant in any way but myself and hundreds / thousands of others feel that although the BCUC may have acted with all good intention in accepting the interim fees they did not consider the unintended consequences and actions of BC Hydro using these excessive fees to essentially force people to accept the smart meters in advance of the BCUC hearing and hence render the hearings irrelevant. Many thousands of people simply cannot afford an additional \$35/mo fee on top of their current \$20/mo billings and will be forced via economic blackmail to accept the smart meters before a reasonable assessment of their validity. It is not democratic and I urge you and the commission to reconsider their position and act in good faith on behalf of the general public to re establish the BCUC hearings as a legitimate public review.

Sincerely, John Hurd