
From: Barb & John Mansell [jbwonderful@shaw.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 5:44 PM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX; david@legalmind.ca; wjandrews@shaw.ca; support@bcpiac.com; dennis_barbisan@hotmail.com; barkerbrenton@gmail.com; tbraithwaite@bcpiac.com; kim-mortgages@eastlink.ca; d_sculpts@shaw.ca; majikx@msn.com; thackney@shaw.ca; bharper@econalysis.ca; ajhurd@telus.net; phl222@telus.net; bobmck@shaw.ca; roger.middleton@telus.net; penrod@saltspring.com; jaynepriest@gmail.com; epritchard@bcpiac.com; john@vaseguy.com; tvanswieten@metchosin.ca; norm.r@sios.ca; tps.x@telus.net; ashadra@telus.net; jskogsta@telus.net; vasana@camelot-connection.com; info@blueharvestfarm.com; tystanley777@yahoo.com; eliteservice@shaw.ca; rwarder@telus.net; cweafer@owenbird.com; fredweislaw@gmail.com; imagroovymama@yahoo.ca; steven.wishart@gmail.com; david.jae.wong@gmail.com; debuijn@shaw.ca
Cc: bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com
Subject: Re: NOTICE OF REGULATORY FILING - BCH PUBLIC IRES_1 to BCUC Exhibit B-5

RE. Exhibit B-5

Submitted by John Mansell, intervener.

As an intervener I feel compelled to point out what I see as a misrepresentation of the truth of a situation in BC Hdro's response to this question put forward in Exhibit B-5. Following please find, exerted from exhibit B-5, the original question, BC Hydro's answer I believe to misrepresent the truth of the situation and my reasons for believing this to be so.

**7.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, Application, Chapter 3 p. 3-6; Capital Costs; Appendix B Direction No. 4 to the BCUC; Appendix I Schedule A-2, Table 3-3
Cost Composition of Capital Costs**

The Application states on page 1 that the new meter options to eligible customers will be based on the premises that these customers choosing an alternative meter option will have to pay additional charges designed to recover the costs attributable to providing services in relation to the option.

Section 3(1) (a)(i) of Direction No. 4 from the Provincial government directs the Commission to ensure that when setting rates it must allow BC Hydro to collect sufficient revenue in each fiscal year to enable it to recover the costs from applicable customers at applicable premises where a legacy meter or radio-off meter is installed.

Decisions from this Commission have normally adhered to the regulatory principle of fairness in cost allocation, which means that those causing costs should be responsible for paying them.

1.7.1 In Table 3-3, the capital cost items do not seem to have included a credit charge to customers who opt to retain their legacy meters. Wouldn't BC Hydro save on the cost of meter exchange as well as the cost of the smart meter for these customers? Please explain why no credit charge is added to the capital cost to reflect the cost

savings alongside the additional costs created by these customers.

RESPONSE:

There are no material cost savings from customers keeping their legacy meters because in nearly all cases BC Hydro has already incurred the cost of attending the premises to install the smart meters (even though a smart meter was not actually installed). In addition, for premises where a legacy meter remains installed, a smart meter or a radio-off meter will be installed eventually when BC Hydro runs out of legacy meter inventory.

Here is my reason for believing this to misrepresent the truth of the situation;

The only reason BC Hydro incurred any costs by initially attending my, and thousands of others, residence is because they did not do their due diligence in asking me ahead of incurring these costs if I wanted a smart meter. This could have easily been done by the mail outs they so readily use. Had they exercised common sense management skills or looked at other jurisdictions that have entered smart meter programs they would have known that there would be a percentage of the population that would retain their analog meters. Knowing this and inquiring first they would have avoided incurring the costs of wasting time and money attending properties they had no business attending.

For this reason I believe the original question remains valid and a credit charge should be added to the capitol cost and BC Hydro should rightfully bare the costs of their lack of due diligence not the meter choice customers.

Thank you, John Mansell