
From: Diane Shoemaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 11, 2014 9:08 AM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX
Subject: Fwd: Re analog meter reading fee of \$35-- [REDACTED]

Thank you. For the letter of comment that I am submitting below, I agree to have my letter submitted as below with only my initial D. Shoemaker used for the name and no personal data (address etc. given). Thank you for the opportunity to have our concerns read.

Sincerely,
D. Shoemaker

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Commission Secretary BCUC:EX" <Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com>

Subject: RE: Re analog meter reading fee of \$35-- [REDACTED]

Date: December 23, 2013 at 10:39:46 AM PST

To: "Diane Shoemaker" [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Shoemaker,

You may submit a letter of comment up until the close of the evidentiary record, which is January 17th.

Regards,

Katie Berezan
Administrative Assistant

Sent on behalf of:
Ms. Erica Hamilton
Commission Secretary
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street
Box 250
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3
Tel: 604-660-4700
Fax: 604-660-1102
Email: commission.secretary@bcuc.com

The information being transmitted may contain confidential and/or privileged material and is intended only for the person or organization to which it is addressed. If you receive this e-mail in error, please delete the material from the receiving computer and contact the sender.

|| Please consider the environment before printing this email

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Shoemaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2013 11:32 PM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX
Subject: Re: Re analog meter reading fee of \$35-- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Laura Sharpe or Erica Hamilton,

Thank you for your note below. I am interested in submitting a letter of comment. Some of what I'd like to include is in the letter below, but if it is to be for public viewing, I would like to revise, add some details etc. When is the deadline for submission?

Thanking you.

Diane Shoemaker

On Dec 17, 2013, at 4:38 PM, Commission Secretary BCUC:EX <Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Shoemaker,

Thank you for the copy of your email addressed to BC Hydro regarding the utility's Meter Choices Program.

As you noted in your email, the Commission is currently reviewing BC Hydro's Application for Approval of Charges Related to Meter Choices Program through a public proceeding. The Commission has set the charges as interim and refundable; the final terms of the charges will be based on the outcome of this proceeding. Any difference between the interim and final charges will be adjusted following the Commission's decision.

Documents pertaining to this proceeding may be viewed and downloaded from our website at the following link: <http://www.bcuc.com/ApplicationView.aspx?ApplicationId=417>.

Given your interest in this matter you may wish to submit a letter of comment to commission.secretary@bcuc.com or have your December 17 email entered as a letter of comment. Letters of comment must contain the commenter's name, contact information and a statement of their position on the application. Letters of comment form part of the public record for the proceeding and are posted on the Commission's website. Therefore, we ask that letters of comments maintain a tone respectful to an effective review of the issues within the scope of the application. Prior to posting your submission to the website, your contact information will be removed. Letters of Comment are provided to the Commission Panel and all participants will be notified of your submission.

Please respond to this email if you would like your December 17 email (below) entered as a letter of comment.

Regards,

Laura Sharpe
Manager, Information Services Group

Sent on behalf of
Erica Hamilton

Commission Secretary
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Phone: 604.660.4700 | Fax: 604.660.1102 | Toll Free: 1.800.663.1385

The information being transmitted may contain confidential and/or privileged material and is intended only for the person or organization to which it is addressed. If you receive this e-mail in error, please delete the material from the receiving computer and contact the sender.

Π Please consider the environment before printing this email.

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Shoemaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 11:59 AM
To: greg.reimer@bchydro.com
Cc: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX; Minister, MEM MEM:EX
Subject: Re analog meter reading fee of \$35-- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Reimer, (and copies to BCUC and Minister BC Gov't)

I received your recent letter of Dec. 18, 2013. You said retaining a safe, proven analog meter at no cost is not an option. The BCUC has been ordered by the BC government to approve these interim fees while the BCUC reviews the high monthly meter reading cost of \$35 that both Hydro and the BC government want to impose in an attempt to coerce, intimidate people into accepting an unproven smart meter (smart meter grids have not proven to be a good decision both in terms of cost analysis/benefit and no definitive proof that they will not have long term detrimental side effects to citizens' health). There are many articles and research that show this that have been included by others so I won't add all that research here.

I will , of course, pay, in the interim, the \$35 monthly fee being imposed for a supposed monthly reading and wait to see if the BCUC does indeed truly listen to BC citizens concerns and allow a free choice as has been done in some other cities, provinces, states, etc. BCUC should have been allowed to do its job w/o being muzzled by government.

In the past, a meter reading was never done monthly, every other month at most and often estimated for several months before a reading. I am keeping a log of meter readings a couple of times a month and am happy to phone in my meter readings and have the readings done occasionally by a meter reader to ensure that the amounts I have reported are accurate. This should be an option that both Hydro and the BCUC offer to people as a cost saving measure for Hydro and for citizens. A monthly reading is certainly not necessary but is suddenly being used by BC Hydro to justify their coercion tactic of a \$35 a month charge to read a meter. In the list of three choices given in several expensive mail outs from Hydro this fall, accepting a \$35 monthly charge if one wanted to keep their analog meter was one choice given. That option did not state that it was only for an interim period while the review was going on. A concern for many people was that by checking that option, Hydro could then say you had agreed in **perpetuity** to that fee from the wording of the line choice. Another option could have been given that said one agreed to the \$35 monthly charge **only** for an interim period during the review.

BC Hydro has spent large sums of money to force smart meters on BC citizens. Most are aware of the huge financial mistakes made by BC Hydro with its poor energy decisions, expensive programs, and top heavy management salaries. There has been a lot in the news with details of those over the years. Due diligence was not done by BC Hydro with its huge cost over runs on the NW Transmission line and disaster that their venture into locked in cost of independent power plants has been —a betrayal of B.C. citizen's tax money for sure. The recent huge cost spent on letters, phone calls, etc. to force smart meters on people with legitimate concerns re detrimental long term health effects and other issues is another example of imprudent use of BC taxpayers' money.

I will be paying the \$35 a month cost of the sudden change to a monthly meter reading being imposed for now while those costs are under review by a hopefully independent BCUC. I will be happy to phone in my meter readings and am keeping photos and a log of them. I expect to have my monthly account bills arrive on time so will be up to date as they have always been for decades.

Sincerely,
D. Shoemaker