

From: Dan Cash [REDACTED]
Sent: February-07-14 8:36 AM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX; Complaints BCUC:EX; GHInfo FIN:EX
Subject: BC Hydro Smart Meter Choices Program Fee review
Attachments: Request_For_Meter_Reading.pdf

Hello,

I know this is late for formal submission to the BCUC Review but I was told I could still send an email by Feb. 7th.

As one who has fought BC Hydro for the past two years with Smart Meter refusal letters and has finally earned the right to retain their analogue meter, I would like to raise some points about BC Hydro's opt-out fee which I feel is absolutely unfair and without justification.

1) For reasons beyond my control, I am on low income. My bi-monthly BC Hydro bill for the one-bedroom apartment where I live, averages \$35.00 per bill including GST. So effectively I pay approx. \$18.00 per month for electricity. Therefore, the new "Choices" fee has TRIPLED my monthly hydro costs. In all honesty, can anyone at BCUC consider that fair considering that BC Hydro was obviously making a profit on my monthly electrical consumption while paying a meter reader, for all the years before the new fee was imposed???

2) During the past few months before this new fee, BC Hydro accepted my meter reading which I submitted by Fax on a BC hydro form specifically for that purpose (please see attachment). If I would be allowed to continue submitting my reading every two months there would be no need for the additional services BC Hydro claims are required to justify this new fee of \$35.00 per month. Anyone with a clear mind can see this is nothing more than a penalty to those who refused a Smart Meter.

3) In the recent past, BC hydro reps have made public statement which if true, are contradictory to their now alleged financial necessity to impose the "Choices" fee.

In regard to the Smart Grid and the analogue meter hold-outs, on Jan.3/13, B.C. Hydro spokesman Ted Olynyk "[acknowledged the system can function without the installation of those meters](#)"

And on Dec.27/12, B.C. Hydro smart-meter spokeswoman, Cindy Verschoor said "[The system can be activated to receive data without 100 per cent meter installation](#)"

4) I would like to draw your attention to a discovery I made on the [BC Hydro's Smart Meter FAQ website](#).

Question: Why is a meter reader still coming to my property to read my meter if I have a smart meter?

Answer: Manual meter readings will be slowly phased out over the next year. At present, **all meters are still being read by a meter reader.**

The point I make here is, if ALL meters are still being read, yet some people are charged an extra \$35.00/month (whether their meter is read each month or not) and others are only charged their consumption fee, this is clearly discriminatory and obviously not fair. I underline those two words because they appear in the BCUC Mission Statement on their [Profile Page](#).

"The Commission's mission is to ensure that ratepayers receive safe, reliable, and non-discriminatory energy services at fair rates from the utilities it regulates, and that shareholders of those utilities are afforded a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair return on

their invested capital."

That's all and thank you for consideration to what I've said.

Dan.