

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Smith, Constance M BCUC:EX](mailto:Smith_Constance.M@bcuc.bc.ca)
Subject: BC Hydro 2015 - Rate Design Application - Letter of Comment re Sharon Noble// Log No. 51126; Exhibit A-9
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2016 11:57:49 AM

From: Carol Hall
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To: Constance Smith
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BC Utilities Commission
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Attention: Ms. Erica Hamilton, Secretary to the Commission

January 10, 2016

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

I am writing regarding the BC Hydro's 2015 Rate Design Application and the rescinding of the status of Sharon Noble as a registered intervener in the Application (Log No. 51126, Exhibit A-9).

As a BC Hydro ratepayer and a citizen of BC, I strongly object to the Commission's move to rescind Ms. Noble's status as an intervener. The Commission's reason for rescinding is apparently that the Rate Design Application has nothing to do with BC Hydro's Meter Choices program. Yet many of Ms. Noble's concerns are general in nature and apply to all BC Hydro ratepayers - for instance, the provision that BC Hydro cannot be held responsible for damage by itself or its agents *even if done deliberately*. For this concern alone, Ms. Noble should be reinstated.

Another concern of Ms. Noble (and thousands of others) is the proposed \$700 reconnection fee for premises where the "meter is obstructed." Again, nowhere in the Application is there any connection made between this outrageous fee and BC Hydro's Meter Choices program. Nor is such a fee included in any of BC Hydro's directives to the Commission, such as Directive #4 issued in December 2013. This is a general concern regarding blatant discrimination, since fees for reconnection in other circumstances are much lower.

The fact that the Commission recognized that this exorbitant fee is designed especially to harass BC Hydro ratepayers who wish to exercise their rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms not to have a smart meter forced on them proves that this fee is punitive and intimidating in nature. As such, it violates the Commission's mandate to see that all customers are treated fairly and equally. There is nothing on God's green earth that justifies this proposed \$700 fee or that can reconcile it to actual costs.

Ms. Noble is extremely well informed regarding many of BC Hydro's undemocratic and arbitrary moves in the past few years, and speaks for thousands of concerned ratepayers. Is the reason for excluding her as an intervener so that there will be no well-informed and official opposition to the one-sided contracts, blatant discrimination and unconscionable fees proposed in this Application? As deplorable as this conclusion is, it certainly looks that way. I urge the Commission to remember its mandate to protect BC Hydro ratepayers from injustices such as these, and to be absolutely fair in its decisions regarding who is eligible to register as an intervener.

I formally request that you reinstate Ms. Noble as an intervener so that she can speak for me and many other BC Hydro ratepayers with similar concerns regarding this deeply flawed Application.

Respectfully,

Carol Hall