

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Smith, Constance M BCUC:EX](#)
Cc: ["Dennis and Sharon Noble"; Routley.MLA, Douglas G LASS:EX; Horgan.MLA, John LASS:EX; Dix.MLA, Adrian LASS:EX](#)
Subject: BC Hydro - 2015 Rate Design Application - Letter of Comment re Sharon Noble // Log No. 51126 ; Exhibit A-9
Date: Saturday, January 9, 2016 11:21:54 AM

Constance Smith
Senior Administrator
BC Utilities Commission
Box 250, 900 Howe St.
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3
Attention: Ms. Erica Hamilton, Secretary to the Commission

9 January 2016

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

It is my understanding that Sharon Noble's intervener status has been rescinded by the Commission's office. Further, it is my understanding that Ms. Noble was rejected as an intervener because the meter choice and smart meter program are not part of the rate design application.

Surely you jest?

You have before you BC Hydro's request to create a special \$700.00 reconnection fee for instances where they allege access to a meter is not provided by the ratepayer. I challenge you do dispute any of the following:

- For practical purposes, the only BC Hydro customers who may choose to restrict physical access to their meters are people presently paying the extortionate legacy fees - which your Commission was powerless to stop. I was an intervener in your 'review' of those fees and personally witnessed your complete impotence to protect BC Hydro customers, despite glaring evidence, including the words of then Energy Minister Bill Bennett, that they were intentionally set at a punitive rate by BC Hydro.
- Of these people, virtually none would object to permitting BC Hydro to read their existing analogue meter.
- These people are resisting smart meters on their homes for a variety of serious reasons including: loss of privacy, probable harm to their health via wireless radiation, meter fires, etc. In fact, as you should know, a putative class action lawsuit is in the works by which these BC Hydro customers intend to defend themselves, their families and their homes from these smart meter threats.
- As such, these people represent a precisely identifiable minority of BC Hydro customers.
- Therefore, this \$700 fee is on its face, specifically aimed at these customers.

Surely you would not deny that a \$700 fee to reconnect hydro service bears no relation to hydro's cost to perform this service. As evidence, please refer to the drastically lower reconnection fees charged to customers reconnecting for other reasons.

Clearly this wildly excessive proposed \$700 fee is targetted only at BC Hydro's legacy meter customers.

My understanding is that the Tariff under which BC Hydro operates does not allow them to discriminate against their customers, yet this is what by all appearances is happening with this special new reconnection fee. Otherwise, the already existing reconnection fees would suffice. Therefore, the BCUC has no leg to stand on when it rejects Sharon Noble as an intervenor to critically examine not only this \$700 fee, but other possibly contentious issues proposed by BC

Hydro. Clearly, the matter to be investigated has very much to do with meter choice and the smart meter program.

Finally, I have personal experience with the cavalier manner in which BC Hydro charges such fees. Two years ago a man drove a Corix truck to my home and refused to answer my question why he was on my property, refused to identify himself, and, when I attempted to look at his id badge, threatened me. For this, I was financially penalized (twice) by BC Hydro. This entire incident is available for you to view on video, should you doubt my word. My point is that, based on this experience, I know very well that BC Hydro can play fast and loose when applying punitive fees to its customers. They have already done so with me.

Therefore, by not allowing Sharon Noble to formally participate in the critical examination of the proposed \$700 reconnection fee aimed at legacy meter customers, it would appear that the BCUC seeks to knowingly hand BC Hydro a large blunt instrument with which to arbitrarily financially pound a targetted group of its customers.

As a BC citizen and BC Hydro customer for over 25 years, I therefore urge you to permit Sharon Noble to serve as an Intervenor in this matter. With respect, for you to do otherwise can only cast considerable doubt upon your objectivity in representing me and thousands of other B.C. Hydro ratepayers already subjected to BC Hydro's patently extortionate legacy fees.

Sincerely,

James W. Stachow, MBA, BAsC.

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