

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Smith, Constance M BCUC: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 3:04:02 PM

Karen R. Forbes
[REDACTED]

Constance Smith
Senior Administrator
BC Utilities Commission
Box 250, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3
Fax: 604-660-1102
Email: constance.smith@bcuc.com

Attention: Ms. Erica Hamilton, Secretary to the Commission
January 9, 2016

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

Re: BC Hydro - 2015 Rate Design Application - Letter of Comment re Sharon Noble // Log No. 51126 ; Exhibit A-9

It has come to my attention that Sharon Noble's intervener status has been rescinded by the Commission's office.

It is important that there be voices representing BC Hydro's ratepayers. She is well informed on the issues and is able to represent those who have concerns around the BC Hydro smart meter program, which includes myself.

There has been a high cost in terms of dollars, stress and health for those wishing to opt out of the wireless smart meter program. In some areas such as Ashland, Oregon, Vermont and New Mexico opting out is an option and is free, with no monthly charges. In other areas there is a minimal monthly charge of \$5 to \$15. BC Hydro is charging \$32.40 per month and the meter is only read once every two months. That is a \$64.80 to have the meter read.

<http://www.stopsmartmetersbc.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/OPT-OUT-FEES-draft-Feb-15-2015-analogs-highlighted.pdf>

Sharon gives a voice to BC Hydro's clients who have opted out, some of which are elderly, ill or on fixed incomes are among the most impacted by the rate hikes and fees. Those who have opted out and are home all day, such as those ill, elderly are, they may incur tier two rate charges. As a result they run the risk of being in arrears.

Having one's power cut off due to non-payment is punishment enough. On BC Hydro's website, it states it can adjust the reconnection fees to be charged from \$30, all the way up to \$700. The high fees give the perception that they are punitive.

<https://www.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/moving-electrical-connections/electrical-connections/charges-fees.html>

Please reconsider. I strongly support Sharon Noble's intervener status being reinstated.

Thank You,

Karen R. Forbes,

