

E-Plus Homeowners Group

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April 25, 2016

British Columbia Utilities Commission
6th Floor – 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2V3

Attention: Laurel Ross, Acting Commission Secretary

Dear Madam:

**Re: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
Project No. 3698781/G-156-15
2015 Rate Design Application
E-Plus Homeowners Group (EPHG) Comments re: Residential E-Plus Rate Design (Rate Schedule 1105)
Review Process**

Further to the Commission's April 20, 2016, letter inviting parties to comment on the review process for the Residential E-Plus rate design, we write to advise the Commission that EPHG has a strong preference for the written format.

Our group is a grass roots organization and we have no professional staff to assist us with preparations or legal counsel to guide our participation in an oral hearing. With this in mind we feel we could be placed at considerable disadvantage compared to other parties in an oral hearing.

A written process conducted over a reasonable time frame will allow us to provide our evidence in a clear and organized fashion, and would allow us the time we would need to properly and fully respond to any questions or information requests as well as to consider fully any additional evidence provided by BC Hydro or other parties.

Additionally, a written process would allow us a greater opportunity to keep our members informed and to gather their input as the process proceeds.

We intend to file written evidence in regard to the Residential E-Plus rate design and are prepared to answer in writing any IR's or other questions that might flow from that submission.

In regard to the timetable, specifically the question of whether the "Amended Regulatory Timetable" should be used, we note that this requires Intervener evidence to be filed by May 9, 2016, which is only two weeks from today. We request that this date be moved back by at least one week, to May 16, 2016 or later, and suggest that if this was done the other dates in the Timetable could still be achievable.

If the decision is made to utilize an oral process, we ask that this be delayed by at least two months to allow us to consider whether we must seek funding in order to retain legal counsel and, if necessary, to make those arrangements.

Yours truly,

Gary McCaig – E-Plus Homeowners Group