

REQUESTOR NAME: **BC Sustainable Energy Association and Sierra Club BC**
INFORMATION REQUEST ROUND NO: 1
TO: **E-Plus Homeowners Group**
DATE: **May 27, 2016**
PROJECT NO: **3698781**
APPLICATION NAME: **BC Hydro 2015 Rate Design Application**

1.0 Topic: Future of Residential¹ E-Plus Rate
Reference: Exhibit C10-4, E-Plus Homeowners Group Evidence

1.1 If:

(a) the Commission was to deny BC Hydro's application to change the E-Plus terms and conditions to make the rate "practically interruptible,"² and

(b) the Commission was to determine that the original purpose of the E-Plus rate is not valid and useful at the present time and going forward, and

(c) the Commission was to determine that apart from fair and reasonable treatment of the existing E-Plus customers the E-Plus rate does not have a valid and useful purpose at the present time and going forward, and

(d) the Commission was to examine the options for terminating the E-Plus rate in a way that is fair and reasonable to existing E-Plus customers, and

(e) the Commission was to acknowledge that E-Plus customers have made investments of time and money to install and maintain a non-electric heating system in compliance with the terms of the existing E-Plus rate and in reliance on receiving the benefits of the E-Plus rate, and

(f) the Commission was to find that E-Plus customers' investments in a non-electric heating system should be deemed to have continued until such time as the terms of E-Plus rate no longer require the customer to have and maintain a non-electric heating system, and

(g) the Commission was to consider an E-Plus rate termination plan in which (i) the non-electric heating system requirement was eliminated as of a certain date (at or after the decision) and (ii) the E-Plus rate would continue to be available to existing E-Plus customers on its other existing terms and conditions (i.e., closed) for a certain number of years (call it a 'sunset period'³), and

(h) the Commission was to determine that the length of the sunset period should be fair and reasonable to E-Plus customers taking into account various factors, including but not limited to E-Plus customers' actual and deemed investments in a non-electric heating system up to the time of the elimination of the requirement to maintain a non-electric heating system,

¹ In this document, the "E-Plus Rate" means the residential E-Plus Rate.

² Exhibit B-1, p.1-6.

³ The term "phase out period" is avoided because it can imply that the obligations and benefits of the rate are gradually reduced toward elimination.

then:

(A) in the view of the E-Plus Homeowners Group, what factors should the Commission consider in determining the length of the sunset period, and

(B) should the length of the sunset period be determined in the present proceeding or should it be the subject of some further decision-making process, and if the latter what would be the focus and nature of the further process, and

(C) what would be an appropriate number of years for the length of the sunset period if the Commission was to set one in the current proceeding?