



## Letter of Comment

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to submit a letter of comment concerning an application currently before the Commission, please provide a completed form to [commission.secretary@bcuc.com](mailto:commission.secretary@bcuc.com). If email is unavailable, please mail the form to the address above. By doing so, you acknowledge that all letters of comment are published with the author's name as part of the public evidentiary record, both in print copy and on the Commission's website. All personal contact information provided on this page is removed before posting to the website. Forms must be received by the Commission by the last filing date included in the proceeding's regulatory timetable before final arguments.

Proceeding name

Residential Inclining Block Electricity Rates

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Carol Hall

City

Province

BC

Email

Phone number

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Carol Hall

Date: July 23, 2016

Comment: Please specify the reasons for your interest in the proceeding, your views concerning the proceeding, any relevant information that supports or explains your views, the conclusion you support and any recommendations. The Commission may disallow comments that do not comply with the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

My reasons for commenting on the Residential Inclining Block Electricity Rates is because they are patently unfair to BC Hydro customers like my husband and myself who heat with electricity and live in an area with no access to natural gas. When we built our house 33 years ago, everyone was encouraged to go with all-electric heat, and the rates were reasonable. Of course the electricity bills were in the winter when the electric baseboard heaters were turned on, but that's to be expected..

However, bringing in the so-called Conservation Rate makes the cost of winter heating astronomical, even though our house is insulated to the maximum, is well-sealed, and makes use of solar gain through our south-facing windows.. We try to minimize our use of electricity year around, and have no trouble staying within the Step 1 threshold between late June and early September. But to charge us half again the Step 1 rate just because we have to turn on the heat in winter penalizes us for believing BC Hydro when we installed electric heat. Our only other option would be wood heat, which is not an option for us as we would have to buy all our wood and we don't even have a wood stove or chimney to start with.

My suggestion for customers like us who have no option other than electric heat is to vary the Step 1 cutoff by season: keep the rate as it is from June 21 - September 21 (we do want to conserve electricity), up it by perhaps 10% from March 21 - June 21 and from September 21 - December 21, and by no more than 20% from December 21 - March 21. This should be doable by having such customers register for the eased rates, confirming that they do indeed live in an area without access to natural gas and have no other source of heat.