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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. 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

BCUC Rib Rate Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

Yes, intervener

Name (first and last)

Nicholas Marty

City

[REDACTED]

Province

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Nicholas Marty

Date:

July 19 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.

The consultation process that you launched on July 7, 2016 is deeply flawed and needs revising since it is ignoring thousands of BC residents who do not have access to natural gas and who are being adversely impacted by the RIB.

I do not have access to natural gas, but I only found out indirectly about BCUC's request for comments because you omitted sending your public notice to my community, my regional district or one of the local newspapers in my region (such as the Osoyoos Times). Evidently, you have assumed that those residents without access to natural gas are all located in those towns that do not have access to natural gas. In fact, thousands of such BC residents are in rural areas located outside of towns that have access to natural gas. That is the situation with my rural community, that is situated just east of Osoyoos. There are similar rural communities and residents living outside of Oliver, Penticton, Kelowna, Nelson, Trail etc etc. that are in the same situation. You haven't advised any of us about your consultations even though we are affected by the RIB to the same degree as those residents who live in towns where there is no access to natural gas. BCUC should be aware of our existence, since, over the past few years, you have received numerous complaints from us, including a petition with more than 600 signatures.

After my conference call with Minister Bennett on this issue in April 2015, he sent me a letter in which he stated he was pursuing "a further review of these issues through a BCUC process that would allow you and other concerned customers to participate." Clearly, your process is failing to do what the Minister desired. You need to re-start this consultation process immediately by sending your public notice to every newspaper in BC. BC Hydro and FortisBC can supply you with a complete list, since they publish public notices in these newspapers all of the time. And since two weeks has already gone by since your original announcement, you need to extend the deadline beyond August 15th, for residents to send in their comments.

If you choose to dismiss my concerns and continue with the existing consultation unchanged, then I would request that this letter be included in the final report to the Minister.