

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Rory Lindsay

Date:

July 28 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 spouse and I are senior citizens and have resided near Slocan since 1969. Our current house was first occupied in March, 1984, is about 1700 square feet plus a finished basement and is heated by electric baseboard heaters supplemented by a high-efficiency wood stove. We are on fixed incomes, do not have access to natural gas, try to minimize our environmental foot-print and are finding that since the inclining block electricity rates were introduced, just staying warm is taking a much larger bite out of our finances. We are old enough to remember when West Kootenay Power - precursor to Fortis in this region - offered a specially low "all electric" rate to households who got rid of their oil stoves and switched to electric heat. We also remember when our region boasted the lowest power rates in Canada!

I am struggling with collecting my firewood as I approach 70 and am concerned for the future. There is absolutely no way that we can limit our electricity consumption to stay in block 1 so long as electricity is our main source of heat. All of our heating is now paid for in block 2. We do our best to switch off lights and save electricity where we can but heating with electricity will always have to be paid for at block 2 rates. As we age, I foresee a greater dependence on electricity, not a lessor dependence - although we will always be conservation-minded and seek to minimize our foot-print.

I concur with others who have commented that this current incarnation of inclining block pricing is totally unfair. Had we the option of natural gas - or any other cheaper source of heating - we would take it in a flash. However, we do not. This inclining block pricing system can be fixed and should be relaxed or modified for those of us who have no option but to use electricity for heating. Can I suggest that block one in such situations should be increased by the kwh's used to heat an average home with electricity? Then, after this increased block one allowance is used, the higher block 2 prices could kick in to encourage conservation.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.