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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

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

Name (first and last)

City Province

Email Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Richard Jones

Date:

10-Aug-16

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.

This letter of comment regards the unfairness of the two-tier electrical rate system for people living in areas where there is no option but to heat using electrical power.

I am all in for trying to decrease electrical power consumption, but the two-tier billing system for areas without options for heating without electricity is simply unfair to the people who live in those areas. We live in Naramata which is in such an area. Older houses in these areas typically do not have ducting installed to simply convert from energy-wasting baseboard heating to more efficient electrical furnaces or heat pumps.

We live in a house without ducting and in July, 2010 we had a ductless heat pump system installed due to the high power consumption during the winter from baseboard heating. The ductless heat pump is a wonderful option to decrease power consumption. Compared to the five years before the heat pump, we now use 21.5% less power on a yearly basis. The difference between the heating months is impressive. We now use 4098 kWh less power between November and March. We paid \$500 **less** for electricity during the year after installing the heat pump compared to the year before. Of course this was prior to the two-tier billing system. We paid \$500 **more** per year after the two tier system came into effect despite having the heat pump. Therefore, going to the expense of installing a ductless heat pump resulted in a net zero benefit for us in terms of yearly electrical bills despite using a lot less electricity.

It is irritating to people when they buy into making energy saving changes and then end up paying more for them. Of course you will say, "just think what you would be paying if you hadn't installed the heat pump". That is the point of this letter. A lot of people cannot afford to install a heat pump. Yes, they will use more power because of it but you can bet they are trying to decrease power consumption in other ways. There are too many examples to count where some residents cost the system more because of where they live yet pay the same rates as others for services. I have never heard anyone suggest these people should pay more, it's simply not Canadian to do so. It is also not Canadian to punish people who have no choice when it comes to the method of keeping the house warm in winter. The two-tier electrical billing system is not a Canadian value.