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Utilities Commission**

## 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

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)

Alan West

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.

The billing rules currently applied by B.C. Hydro cause undue hardship for customers without access to natural gas. Under the current two-tier electricity rate system, the tier one maximum threshold of usage is so low, that even in the summer it is difficult not to exceed the threshold to the higher second tier usage rate. Consequently when the weather turns colder in the fall and winter comes "electricity only customers" are forced to heat their homes exclusively at the higher rate. This can cause undue hardship for some, when they are forced to choose between heat and food.

I realize the two tier system is a good way to promote conservation but it appears it only applies to the "electricity only" households. Houses with gas access have no incentive to conserve as they never reach the threshold to the second tier, where the cost of power jumps dramatically. Perhaps a more equitable system could be arranged where the "gas access" customers have a two tier electricity rate with a much lower threshold than "electricity only" customers. This would promote more conservation from them, while giving the "electricity only" customers a break from the high costs forced upon them.

Currently my usage rate threshold is 1376 kw/hrs for a 60 day billing period.

Suggestions:

First: Apply a lower threshold point for "gas access" customers of about 400 kw/hrs.

Second: Raise the threshold point for "electricity only" customers to about 1800 kw/hrs.

When setting the actual numbers for the two different thresholds, there will be some point where it becomes revenue neutral for B.C. Hydro, and much more fair and equitable for ALL customers. With the added bonus of putting more emphasis on conservation for the "gas access" customers.

Seems power-smart to me.

Alan West