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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: BC Hydro 2015 Rate Design Application Appendix F-1D Rate Schedule 1105-Dual Fuel

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party? *No*

Name (first and last): Margaret MacNeil Nieboer	
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Letter of Comment

Name (first and last): Margaret MacNeil Nieboer

August 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.

[Please write your comments in this box]

On March 28 I wrote a previous comment protesting the unnecessary changes to the BC Hydro Schedules 1105-Dual Fuel in the BC Hydro Rate Design Application 2015. I am adding further comment. I am now a 76 year old E-Plus customer in [REDACTED], BC.

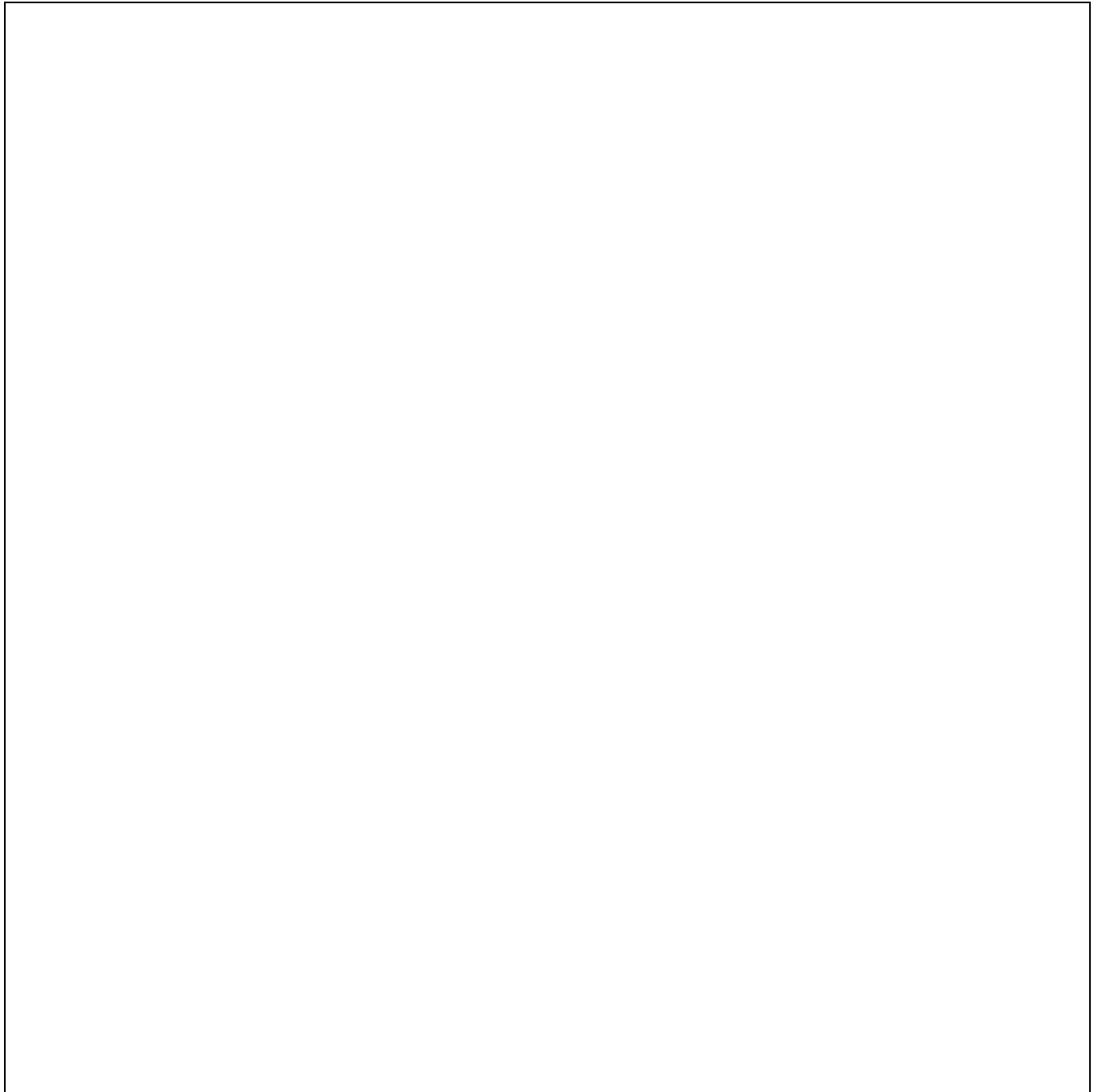
I want it to be on the record as to the type of difficulties the average Senior faces when dealing with this kind of Rate change. There is a myth out there that E-Plus customers get a 50% discount on **ALL** of their electricity. I was informed recently that our Minister of Energy Bill Bennett further endorsed this myth in the Provincial Legislature as reported in Hansard Committee A Blues, Monday, April 11, 2016 pm at line 1545 on Page 17 and 18. Where he does not mention explicitly that the E-Plus rate only applies to my furnace heat with a separate meter. He insinuates that since 1987 E-Plus users are paying half the rates that their neighbours are paying. He reiterates this 2 more times for emphasis one includes that we have paid half of what everyone else residentially is paying for electricity. I wish to point out to the Commissioners and have it on the record that **only** my furnace is on the E-Plus meter. The rest of my appliances, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer, dryer, computer, TV's, lighting and anything else that uses electricity is on the 2 Tier Rate like everyone else.

We are not lucky enough to be on a natural gas line in Invermere. I have no idea as to how many BCH customers are also serviced by Natural gas. I would imagine the number is quite substantial. They probably have gas furnaces and hot water heaters. From my latest BCH bill the rate for E-Plus is \$0.05430/kW.h The First Tier is \$0.08290/kW.h and the Second Tier is \$0.12430/kW.h. I am at a loss to figure out where Bill Bennett can declare that I am paying 50% less than all the other residential ratepayers in BC. So how is the average Senior expected to argue against a myth like this?

My second comment is on BCH's answer to the BCUC's question 2.142.3 How will BCH determine that it does not have the "energy or capacity" to provide service to E-Plus customers. Their response: BCHydro will compare forecasted demand to forecasted resources to determine whether E-Plus customers will be interrupted.

I am impressed that they are able to run daily totals on forecasted demand and forecasted resources for all areas of BC and then automatically phone me with 2 days' notice to turn my furnace off. However, the word "forecast" does not provide me with any proven comfort and/or reliability.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret MacNeil Nieboer



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