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www.bcuc.com**British Columbia
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. 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)

G. Barry Stewart

Date:

August 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.



I wish to record my opposition to BC Hydro's proposed rate hikes, hikes which will continue to outstrip inflation and put extra burden on residential and small business users.

As reported by Dermod Travis of Integrity BC, from 2007 to 2015, BC Hydro increased the rates by 63.2% -- while Hydro Quebec only increased theirs by 17.1%. The former were presumably all approved by the BCUC.

BC Hydro has surely laid out their need to increase their rates -- but there should be emphatic push-back from the BCUC, as our public utilities watchdog.

In my mind, the BCUC should have said -- and should be saying: "What's with these IPP's? You're paying them 3x as much as you can sell their power for. This has got to stop. No more IPP approvals! And when these contracts come up for approval, tell them you're doing them a favour, taking their unneeded power at market price."

The next question should be: "What's with all these wild increased demand forecasts? BC's population has increased but our demand for electricity has flat-lined for more than a decade. This pattern is also seen in the USA, so you won't be selling excess production there, either. Yet, you are predicting a 34% increase in the next 20 years. Where will that demand come from? If we allow you to keep jacking up

the rates, people will get even more efficient with their use, or adopt new technologies and you'll be stuck with excess power that no one will want... unless you lower the rates.”

As well, you should be asking: “Where is your business case for Site C? Without a buyer for your costly power, you're going to sell it on the cheap and go further into debt... or ask us to approve rate increases to cover the losses. Go back and do your homework.”

As respected BC political blogger writes: “Retired utility executives have told me they fear retaliation for going on record about the company's troubles. I have been gathering information and conducting detailed research for an extended period and I conclude the company's senior management is both corrupt and incompetent.” <https://in-sights.ca/2016/08/18/damn-the-torpedos/>

I understand the BC Liberals have taken away your ability to speak frankly to them or BC Hydro, so I am doing that for you. I look forward to seeing these words in the public record.

G. Barry Stewart