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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)

Patricia Faurot

Date:

August 30, 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.

As a BC Hydro customer on Saltspring Island where we have no access to natural gas and must thus rely on electricity for our heating needs in winter, I feel that the new two tier billing system recently introduced by BC Hydro is unfair as it is impossible to stay in the first tier if we wish to use our electric heaters to keep warm during the winter months. We are very conscious of our electricity usage and try hard to conserve as much as we can, but we do live in a climate which is cold and damp in the winter thereby requiring us to use some form of heat. The step 2 rate of 0.12430 per kWh is significantly higher than the step 1 rate of 0.08290 per kWh, in fact, is 49.94% increase. I thought there were limits to the percentage amount BC Hydro is allowed to increase their rates. Am I wrong? Our income is less than \$30,000 per year. I am a senior and my partner will be soon as well, so our income prospects are decreasing as opposed to increasing as currently we both work part time in order to have enough money to make ends meet. I know many people my age who are in the same boat financially, barely scraping by, and like us, are reliant on electricity for heat in winter. I hope that the BCUC is able to intervene in this situation. Thank you, Sincerely, Patricia Faurot.