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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](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

BCUC Rib Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Brian W. Enger

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Brian W. Enger

Date:

August 31, 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 would like to make a "Letter of Comment" in connection with the above noted application but find that the limitations of your website, Adobe or my internet provider will not permit a prescribed reply. On the assumption that my neighbors may also be similarly challenged I am copying this to them with the hope that they will confirm my comments herein by each of them simply forwarding a copy of this to you (and hopefully also to their neighbors and so on) to show solidarity with my concerns and also advising you respectively, of each of their names, emails, town village or district and a telephone numbers, and, perhaps adding details of additional concerns.

On my behalf and, in general, on behalf of all of my East Shore Kootenay Lake fellow residents to the north of the town of Creston BC, I advise you of my concerns as follows;

- None of us have natural gas service, nor will the area be serviced with natural gas in the foreseeable future. Historically the residents of the area have heated with wood and coal but with previously cheap and available electricity many homes were encouraged to be, and are, heated solely by electricity. Accordingly all rate increases in this area under the guise of encouraging a switch to natural gas are simply a fraud.
- I have a 17 year old, reasonably well insulated, slab on grade bungalow of approximately 2,900 square feet heated with in-floor radiant heat from an electric boiler (recently changed from an uneconomic ground source heat pump). The residence is only seasonably occupied in the summer months, but to avoid frozen pipes, i keep it heated to 5°C in the high heating season winter months. Security lighting and yard lights are all LED but winter electric bills still range in the vicinity of \$1,000 per month. I reiterate-\$1,000 per month to minimally heat an unoccupied three bedroom residence!!
- People living on the East Shore throughout the winter months simply cannot justify the present cost of electric heat and are now relying on wood fireplaces, stoves and furnaces for primary heating. This is not a question of poverty but rather one of common sense! My neighbors would rather stoke a stove with freely available fuel than pay after-tax cash for artificially high priced electric power.
- Obviously wood smoke is not better for the environment and the Fortis suggestion that a block rate increase would benefit the environment is misleading and ridiculous for areas not serviced by natural gas.
- Fortis appears to wish to create a whole new social welfare bureaucracy, apparently so as to artificially inflate their rate base and thus increase their already inflated revenues. The BCUC should instead be analysing Fortis' G & A Expenses to ensure that they comprise only those required in connection with generation and transmission of electric power. We require a more efficient and cost effective public utility not another social welfare organisation that the consumer is obliged to pay for at a grossed up cost.

I also am concerned with the apparent lack of concern of the BC Utilities Commission for the public interests in failing to ensure timely and universal customer notification of applications for rate increases clearly confirming simple language explanations for increases and methodology for encouraging and hearing complaints. I that regard I am particularly concerned that there has been minimal notice to the consumers affected by above noted proposed rate increases. Our

community was generally unaware of any pending further increase until our Regional District Director made reference in his monthly update column in the August edition of the community newspaper, to the necessity for readers to file their comments with respect to this increase prior to August 15. He suggested complaints could be made through the BCUC website (citing an erroneous URL and ID number).

The BCUC is charged with the protection of the public from the excesses of political agendas of government and of the profit incentives of government sponsored monopolies and should be doing a better job to involve and protect the consumers to whom it is responsible.

I don't believe there is any basis for this nor for earlier rate increases proposed by Fortis which are based and relying on inapplicable studies by BC Hydro.