



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

Charlie Bradbury

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Charlie Bradbury

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Charlie Bradbury

Date:

2-Sep-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 BC Utilities Commission recently requested comment concerning the two-tier electricity rates and the impact on those without access to natural gas. Here is my input.

When we purchased our home 10 years ago we inherited an oil furnace which was running at about 40% efficiency. After a few years we decided to change the heating system and trying to be environmentally conscious we wanted to do away with fossil fuels and chose to install an air source heat pump which ran on clean, renewable BC Hydro electricity, we accompanied this with a replacement of all insulation that was possible to do without incurring renovation costs. Well, I can assure you we have regretted the decision to go with the heat-pump from day one. We didn't really appreciate how expensive electricity was and were flabbergasted at the cost to heat our home in our first winter. We have done EVERYTHING we can to reduce our electricity consumption but find ourselves turning the heating off for anything but the colder months and the thermostat never heats above 22deg Celsius as the expense is just too high.

So, based on this, the two-tier system means absolutely nothing for us because we routinely go into the higher-priced tier no matter how hard we try as we have no other energy sources at our disposal. I would like therefore to see the following changes considered.

- a) A much higher threshold for the lower tier price rate.
- b) An overall reduction of rate price, or a blanket % decrease for those who are utterly dependent on BC Hydro electricity.
- c) As a former resident of the UK, I would like to see a similar system put in place where cheaper electricity was available at off-peak times of day. For example, from 11pm-7am when most people were asleep and demand is lower, the rates were lower, this encouraged people to run dishwashers, tumble dryers, storage heaters, chargers etc. at night-time instead of during the day.

Thank-you.