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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

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)

Brian Weeks

Date:

14-Oct-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.

I understand the conservation motivation for two tier rates. However, the chosen setting of the breakover point between the tiers appears to be unfair. If it is based on "average" statistical usage, it neglects the fact that most electricity users in the province have access to natural gas for space and hot water heating. This this reduces their overall need for electricity. Because there are so many more consumers with access to natural gas it biases the overall "average" low.

In our location, natural gas is not available so our house was designed with excellent insulation, extraordinarily good sealing and a high efficiency heat pump. Nevertheless, our winter electricity use is far above "average". Because of this, we are unduly penalized by the structure of the present two-tier rate schedule.

My recommendation is to adjust the breakover point between the tiers to a higher level for residential electricity consumers who do not have access to natural gas. I suggest that doubling or quadrupling the breakover point would be appropriate, but I am sure you have statisticians who can determine the appropriate level.

Not to do make such an adjustment will encourage those of us in this situation to revert to more wood burning or other less environmentally friendly alternatives.

Brian Weeks, P.Eng.