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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. 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 Rate Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Aaron Banks

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Aaron Banks

Date:

21-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.

Hi

I am a BC Hydro customer residing in [REDACTED], British Columbia.

Last year, my cost of electricity was \$602 (yes for the entire year). That cost is estimated to be \$699 this year, which represents a 17% increase in energy costs. Last year I used approximately 6744 kWh vs this year in which I estimate to use 5-10% less, for more money. My house is approximately 1400 sq ft with an attached garage built in 1987.

Ways I have tried to minimize energy use in my house:

1. All baseboard heaters are shut off at the breaker panel and circuits not in use are shut off at the breaker panel
2. The house is heated exclusively by a wood insert.
3. All windows, exterior doors, interior doors, patio doors and the garage door have been replaced with energy efficient designated doors.
4. The attic has been properly insulated to today's building codes
5. All lights in the house have been replaced with energy efficient light bulbs
6. The propane BBQ is used for cooking 99% of the time to minimize the use of the oven
7. All clothes are hung on the line during the spring, summer and fall on warm, sunny days
8. Laundry is washed with only cold water

Barring having zero lights on and unplugging everything including my laptop and tv, I have no idea on how I can possibly save more energy. I'm maxed out, other than going to natural gas for my water heater, stove and clothes dryer. I'm not sure how that would be a reasonable solution given the up-front conversion costs and FortisBC's rates over the long term.

The two-tier system is unreasonable and creates a burden. More creative pricing strategies should be adopted (like time of day rates).

As a side note, the tool BC Hydro provides to make comparisons are inaccurate. They compare DATES not DAYS. For example, I may have used 29 kWh on Feb 27 this year which is a Saturday (laundry day) and 18 kWh on Feb 27 last year which is on a Friday (when no one is home). Hardly a useful comparison.

Aaron Banks