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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](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?

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Name (first and last)

City  Province

Email  Phone number

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# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Joe O'Hearn

Date:

23-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.

Hello Ms. Laurel Ross....

This note is regarding your request for resident rate payers using Fortis and BC Hydro. First we have two different business entities. Fortis is privately owned out of Nfld. BC Hydro is a Crown Corporation owned by BC taxpayers. Both being regulated by your Commission. I appreciate the Commission's efforts in being a watchdog re rates and service provided by these two. My wife and I purchased our home in 2001 and I've every bill from both parties. Overall they've been consistent in their gas billing. Now don't misinterpret as a positive. We have Hydro for electricity. I know Fortis electric home owners have been tight jawed over their rate increases. I feel they've moved their rates up over the years with great stealth. Most users don't pay attention to the increases because they're done in staged increments. Fortis seems to lag in adjusting rates when their cost for product declines. I don't understand why we pay a "franchise fee". It's not much but it's the principle. Franchise fee? What franchise? They're owned by the same company. Once Terasen sold to them why? As well BC Hydro is just as guilty with their stealth increases. No it's not hidden. It's just slid in every nine to twelve months. BC Hydro rate increases over the last three years:

February 2013: Basic .15050 Step 1 .0680 Step 2 .10190

June '13 .15270 .0690 .10340

April '14 .16690 .0752 .11270

April '15 .17640 .0797 .11950

April '16 .18350 .0829 .12430

As you can see they've substantially increased their rates over a three year period. Based on their volume of distribution the revenue generated is huge I mean big, bigger and biggest. I'm sure notices were sent on the billing after the rates were approved. The Commission more than likely posted something along the line that this was happening. Really, though, how many people pay attention to this? With that said it's highly unlikely the Commission is going to kabash the tiered rate structure. The best we residents can hope for is you force them to control their rates. We don't mind paying we do mind paying for the Head Who-Ha's personal toys and perks. I'm sure both entities are bloated with personnel and miss management of revenue.

Cheers'

Joe O'Hearn