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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: BCUC Commentary on BC Hydro Tiered Rates

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party? [ Yes / No ]  
No

Name (first and last):Melanie McLeod	
City: [REDACTED]	Province: BC
Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last): Melanie McLeod	Date: 2016-11-10
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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.

*[Please write your comments in this box]*

I live on [REDACTED] where the vast majority of residents are forced to heat our houses with electricity, including mine. We have no access to natural gas. I have several concerns with BC Hydro rates including:

1. BC Hydro rates have risen at considerably higher than the rate of inflation over the past few years.
2. The present two-tiered rate system, intended to encourage people to conserve electricity, is laudable but has several obvious flaws:
  - the rate does not recognize that those who live in single family homes cannot avoid using more electricity than those living in apartments or condos
  - the rate does not recognize that those with no access to natural gas for heating, cooking or water heating need to use a great deal more electricity
  - the rate does not recognize family size
  - those with access to natural gas could have all of their power at the lowest rate and no incentive to conserve
  - natural gas does not have a similar "tier" system yet it is much more harmful to the environment

I live in a house with 3 other people. We are very conscientious with our power usage but always have much of our bill at tier 2-rates regardless of our considerable efforts. We cannot possibly shower less or have our house any colder than it already is (our thermostat is never above 15 degrees). We are fortunate in that we can supplement with wood heat but is that desirable on a global scale? Probably not, however I challenge any of you to live in a 15 degree house; you will quickly find it is no fun.

I ask consideration be given to those British Columbians who have no access to natural gas and, at minimum, raise the second tier to something fair and reasonable or, better yet, eliminate it.

Respectfully,

Melanie McLeod