

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: Project No. 3698845

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

No

Name (first and last): Jim Hendry	
City: [REDACTED]	Province: BC
Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]

The BC Utilities Commission is authorized to collect and publish a person or organization's personal information when they participate in a matter before the Commission under sections 26(c) and 33.1(r)(ii) and (iii) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). Subject to FOIPPA, all documents filed in respect to an application will be placed on the public record.

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last): Jim Hendry	Date: November 11, 2016
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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]

We live in an electricity-only area (Southern Interior) Using BCUC categories, we use less than 20,000kWh per year and are in the higher income bracket. We have only high-efficiency forced air furnace and in floor heating. We choose not to use a wood stove to avoid the environmental impacts of a smoke-producing system. We leave the house empty for four months (Nov.-April) and during that period **shut off the power to every appliance in the house** except the back up furnace (set at 6C) and in floor heat (set at 10C).

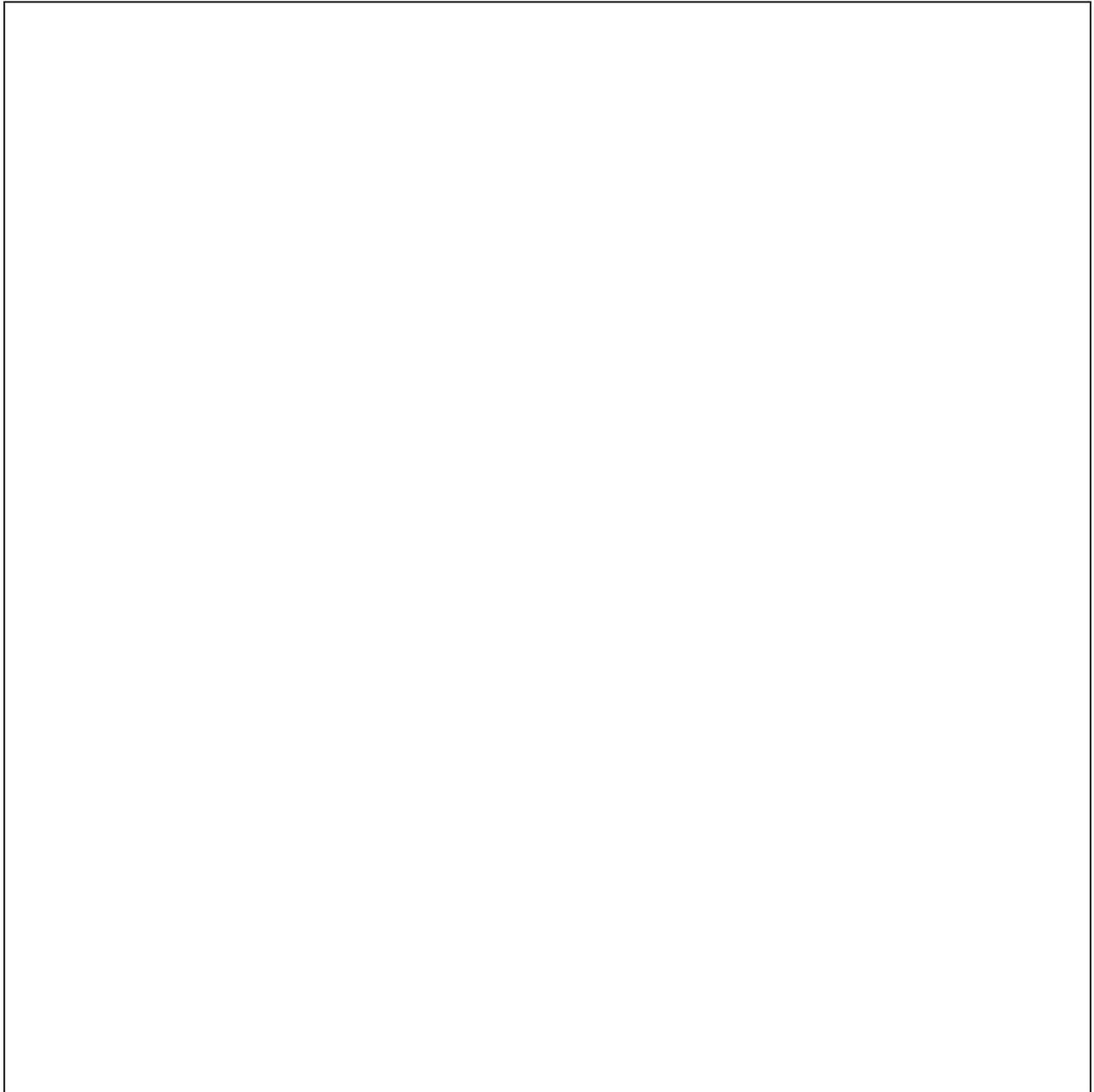
When you look at our electric bills for the past three years during these periods (Dec.-Feb) and (Jun.-Aug.), you will see that the energy consumption during the winter months is only slightly less than during peak summer months. That means that heating our house in the lowest possible range results in higher electric bills than running the entire house (appliances such as fridge, pool, hot tub, computers as described in the BCUC report.)

BCUC mentions energy savings plans to address the penalties for electric-only heat. These programs are one-time only (during installation) and do NOT address yearly costs. There are NO programs for annual penalties for electric-only heating. Once you've taken every step associated with purchasing energy efficient brands and home insulation, there is nothing left to do and no programs to assist users in our category that are penalized for electric-only heat.

The BCUC report implies that the impacts on low income users are the only impacts that matter. In addition, BCUC states that the penalties for higher income users are the higher-income users' fault based on lifestyle choices and thus should be disregarded. BCUC also assumes that higher income users disregard energy efficient practices. This assumption regarding energy efficient choices is insulting, unsubstantiated, and is just a subtle way of blaming the victim in an effort to deflect attention from the real-world penalty for electric-only heat for users of all incomes.

BC Hydro's conclusion that there is "no evidence" of cross-subsidization nor high bill impacts is unsupported by any analysis and, in fact, is directly contradicted by the many letters of comment that have been submitted to these proceedings. We hope that the Minister will review the BCUC and Fortis submissions with a critical eye and acknowledge their limitations and continue to press for more accurate accounting.

Thank you.



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