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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

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

Name (first and last)

City Province

Email Phone number

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)

Al Cleary

Date:

Nov 14 2016

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.

Regarding the two-tier power rates.

As a home owner without natural gas heat or natural gas appliances the two-tier system costs more to power our home for the same amount of power than the one-tier system. Our cost went up the day the system went into effect. We installed a heat pump and use some wood heat, have electric hot water, electric stove and our own water pump. It is impossible to stay within the low tier power cost to run our home. We are being penalized for not having natural gas for heat, hot water and having our own well.

The end result is using hydro generated electricity or burning natural gas. Which has a larger environmental impact after all things are considered? I could drive to Kelowna, fly to the oil sands, work in a dirty industry, fly back to Kelowna, drive home and have enough money to convert the house to burn natural gas with appliances that were manufactured world wide and trucked to Grand Forks. Take the electric furnace and water heater to the land fill. This would be to avoid being penalized for using too much electricity and have a smaller environmental impact. That doesn't add up to any savings economically or environmentally.

To make a two-tier system fair and to encourage power reduction to all the homes more than just a flat rate is required. A large family with no natural gas can't be compared to a couple in a small home with natural gas heat, hot water and a gas stove. The large family will not be able to have a low enough power consumption in this two-tier system to have the same overall cost as the single price system was. The couple gets their power at a reduced rate, they may not have to try to reduce their consumption at all.