

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 2N3Phone: 604-660-4700
BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385
Fax: 604-660-1102
www.bcuc.com**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)

Cindy James

City

[REDACTED]

Province

British Columbia

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Cindy James

Date:

15-Nov-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.

As a BC Hydro customer I would like to comment on this proceeding, especially the recommendation made on page 9 under Recent Events, lines 15 - 21 of the BC Hydro information submission. In this section, it is stated that "on August 2016, BC Government released the Climate Leadership Plan which sets new policy and directs BC Hydro to encourage low carbon electrification. As part of Module 2 of the 2015 RDA, BC Hydro will investigate optional rates and incentives to the default RIB rate to support the addition of new load that reduces GHG emissions."

I truly hope BC Hydro and the BC government follow through with this, as current two-tiered electricity rates do not take into account customers' efforts to mitigate pollution. For instance, my husband and I opted for geothermal heating in our new home. The extra cost for installing this (approximately \$10,000) was worth it, from our perspective, because we wanted to decrease our carbon footprint. We also were told that it would pay for itself after 10 to 15 years because the electricity cost of a geothermal unit would be less than the cost of gas for a standard furnace. Unfortunately, this has not been the case primarily due to the two-tiered structure of electricity rates, which basically penalize us for heating our home with clean energy (geothermal). With this in mind, if the goal is to reduce GHG emissions, it seems logical to establish rates or incentives that support BC Hydro customers who "buy" into greener options.