British Columbia Utilities Commission

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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. 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.

British Columbia Utilities Commission Residential Inclining Block Rate Report to the Government of British Columbia ~ Project No.3698845

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

Name (first and last): Jonathan Underwood	
City: [redacted]	Province: British Columbia
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): Jonathan Underwood	Date: 19.11.2016

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.

The impact of the two tier residential inclining block rate for hydro-electricity is that it unfairly penalizes those who have homes designed for home heating provided exclusively by electricity.
In earlier years, BC Hydro actively encouraged hydro electric heating by offering rates that made electric heating the preferred choice. This benefited the electricity producer by selling surplus capacity and the homeowner with cost effective, clean, and efficient heating. Financial incentives were offered to builders and initial owners that determined that hydro became the preferred energy source for home heating.

Our single family home was designed with this in mind. It does not have a basement below the living quarters (slab on grade). This configuration does not allow for the installation of retrofitted ductwork to facilitate a return air and forced heated air distribution system. Therefore, a more economical natural gas heating system is not feasible at this point. We have been repeatedly shocked by our electricity charges in the winter. This higher cost has made it difficult for me (a pensioner) and my wife (disabled for many years). Many BC residents are in the same situation with a good many not having alternate heating options other than wood.

The two tier charge penalizes consumers for using clean, green hydro-electric energy. Why would the regulators impose this when hydroelectricity is generated virtually carbon free. Does this policy not fly in the face of our efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions; not to mention other chemical pollutants? Natural gas has a lower carbon footprint than oil and coal, but does not come close to hydro.
Can I presume that the BC hydroelectric suppliers are more interested in shunting electricity to the USA (and reciprocally importing coal generated power off peak) as opposed to providing affordable clean electric heating to local residents?

Our province continues to build additional hydro facilities to capitalize on the many opportunities to harness our fortune of clean hydro power. Recently this includes the completed Waneta Dam Expansion Project and now Site C.

The two tier charge policy for home owners goes against the BC Utilities Commission's "Heritage Contract for BC Hydro and Power Authority". The intention for this contract was to establish conservation efforts for large commercial and industrial customers, not home owners. The application of the two tier rate for homeowners goes against the Commission's own public contract. Words directly from the contract are:

"The Commission was requested to make recommendations on two key policy initiatives in the Energy Plan. First,

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benefits attributable to the existing low-cost generation of BC Hydro are to be secured for British Columbians by means of a Heritage Contract. Second, more efficient use of energy resources and private investment in new generation are to be fostered by a stepped rate structure for large commercial and industrial customers".

It appears the commission is ignoring its own commitment by allowing two tier charges for the very citizens it was intending to benefit. BC residents will surely support a fair, single level kw charge that reflects the Commission's commitment to current as well as future generations.

Jonathan Underwood

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