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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

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

Name (first and last)

City

Province

Email

Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Jennifer Paquet

Date:

November 19, 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.

I am writing to bring to your attention the inaccurate categorization of our residential net metering electrical account as "commercial," even though the commercial rate section on the Fortis site is not applicable to our situation.

On April 29, 2014 we installed a 40 panel solar tracking tower in our backyard. I was able to understand the billing process the first year. This was no longer the case after June 4, 2015 when the analog meter was replaced with a smart meter. After that, My Fortis online account was labeled "commercial" under the Rate Section. If we are indeed now commercial then we should not be billed on a 2 tier system as it states that the bimonthly small commercial service rate is \$9.921 cents per kWh.

The Fortis site mentions a further complete listing of all FortisBC Rates and Terms and Conditions for Service, directing one to review FortisBC's Electric Tarriff, which I took a look at, but did not see any ratings relevant to our account.

Even though categorized as "commercial" we are currently charged at .15198 cents after using 1600 kWh's, and yet on the surplus power that we produce for 4 months in the summer, we are credited at the lower rate of .09845 cents per kW hour. Before the Smart Meter was installed, our excess production from May to August was credited at the Block 2 rate of .15 cents per kWh. Therefore, I feel that the basic Terms and Conditions for Service are not clear for our account. I strongly feel that a one tier rate for residential net metering would enable those in our situation to better comprehend the billing structure.

Finally, the Net Metering Interconnection Agreement seems to pertain only to those generating more electricity than they consume (perhaps my reading of this is incorrect?). In our case, with our solar tracker we only produce about two-thirds of the energy we use annually. There are others in our situation in the south Okanagan and we met with about 9 others in the Spring to see if we could better understand our Net Metering agreements, but for the most part no one has a complete understanding of our financial relation with FortisBC.

I hope you will address these rate issues for residential solar producers, as there are sure to be more and more of us in future, and we are contributing to the production of energy in an environmentally sound way.