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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

BCUC RIB Rate Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Doug Nicol

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Doug Nicol

Date:

21-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.

Residential two-tier electricity rates are punitive to households who rely on hydro generated electricity for a source of lighting and heating.

While the goal of reducing power use is admirable, the method to do so should not be via a 2 tiered rate structure as this structure results in higher costs for households who have no other alternative to heat their home.

Its ironic that users of relatively 'clean' hydro generated electricity pay more to heat their house than users of natural gas. And not only is the hydro generated electricity rate higher - but with the 2 tier system the cost to heat a house is further escalated.

For example: the going rate of \$2/GJ for natural gas is about 15 times less then the second tier electricity rate of 15.2cents/kWh for the equivalent hydro generated electrical power. Even when the cost of natural gas delivery and storage is considered - the cost to heat a house with natural gas is 1/4 the cost to heat a house with electricity (as quoted from the Fortis BC Website). Add to this a 2 tier penalty (that users of natural gas do not have to pay - as they typically have multiple sources of power to spread their usage across) and it is evident how the current system does not work as intended.

The solution is simple: Drop the two tier rate system for households that do not have access to natural gas. Better yet offer additional subsidies to households who heat with hydro generated electricity as these houses produce less green house gas emissions.