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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)

Martin Sarich

Date:

23-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.

I reside in [REDACTED] and am concerned with the proposed two-tiered electricity rate system. First and foremost I suggest this change would not be sought if it were not to significantly financially benefit BC Hydro at our expense.

I suspect the cheaper level one tier will be relatively low bouncing us into the more costly tier for a significant portion of our monthly consumption. When they state that the increase will be marginal I have to ask what figures did they use to come up with their analysis and setting of the tier levels. Did they use consumption rates from peak times - e.g our coldest winters and hottest summers or where numbers from lower years/seasons used to come up with average consumption?

I suggest they should work from our highest usages and that anything over that could then go to level 2.

Has consideration been given to regional differences?

1. In the interior we have colder climates which impacts heating costs, block heaters in vehicles, livestock heated areas or waterline heat tapes, greater number of outbuildings on rural properties.
2. Many homes are older and take more energy to heat and it is not viable or affordable for many to remodel homes which were build with thinner walls vs the later 2x6 walls.
3. Incomes in [REDACTED] and Northern parts are lower.
4. Most business buildings are older particularly in small towns and have have higher electrical costs. In the city many business are housed in Malls and basically the inside ones are insulated by other business walls. I suspect this results in lower heating and cooling costs vs if they were stand alone business with all four walls and roof exposed to the elements. This hold true for Condo / townhouse dwellers vs mainly single detached homes in the rural region.
- 5 Many rural home are on wells necessitating the operation of pumps.
6. Seniors on a fixed income are continually seeing it harder and harder to get by on eroded pension checks.
7. Aging seniors often need homes kept warm to keep the chill out of their bodies; putting on more and more sweaters does not do the trick.
8. The proposed Rate Design Application (RDA) and offering of a non-tier time-of-use rate for people to use power at varying hours to obtain cheaper rates is of concern - will it be necessary to do laundry etc. late at night or early morning - while they may make it cheaper; this is not practical for many due to shift work, health, age, etc.!
9. Many people do not have the time to monitor computer applications to monitor their consumption and many seniors do not have the computers, smart phones or knowledge to monitor consumption to take advance of peak discount periods.

I suggest that the two-tier system be scrapped as it has the potential for Hydro to financially abuse its clients. At very least there should be a lower cost regional rate for rural residents / businesses and Seniors.

Respectfully Submitted

Martin Sarich