

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? [Yes / No]

No

Name (first and last): Mark Bermel	
City: [REDACTED]	Province: BC
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): Mark Bermel	Date: November 22, 2016
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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.

November 23rd, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

Our family recently moved to [REDACTED] in June of this past year to a home in [REDACTED]. Our home, like many of our neighbours, is heated by geothermal electricity. My previous home was heated by natural gas. While I was excited by the prospect of geothermal heat and its environmental advantages as a cleaner solution over natural gas/fossil fuels, my excitement quickly dissipated upon receiving my first two electricity invoices under the RIB program.

Though I am not certain whom Fortis consulted in their RIB Report, I can't imagine it's anyone from the Wilden neighbourhood whose homes are heated by geothermal. Under the two-tiered system that has been developed, the conclusion I can only come to is we are being penalized unduly for using a cleaner, more environmentally-friendly heat source. I would be far better off financially using a natural gas (or other dirtier option such as heating oil or wood) solution, irrespective of the environmental benefits geothermal offers. For example, in my previous home which was roughly 30% less square footage, my electricity bills were a quarter of what I currently pay. Yes, my hydro bills have decreased however not commiserate with how much more I pay in electricity.

My primary concern is the two-tier system that has been developed has resulted in cross-subsidization for those who heat with, primarily, natural gas. I am asking for a review of the two-tier system and consideration for flat rate. For the environmental advantages geothermal offers, we should be provided a discounted rate from natural gas and other, less environmentally friendly electricity sources.

Sincerely,

Mark Bermel