

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250  
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 2N3Phone: 604-660-4700  
BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385  
Fax: 604-660-1102  
www.b cuc.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](mailto: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)

Max Yanke

Date:

3/15/2017

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.

Nelson Hydro 2017 Rate Application submission.

As a retired pensioner trying to conserve electricity my CPI pension has increased only 6% while my Nelson hydro bill has increased 32%.

Trying to conserve, buying higher efficiency appliances, efficient lighting, and other conserving methods I am getting closer to about 600kWh bimonthly, making the ever increasing basic fee a larger part of my bill.

A BC Hydro customer basic fee is \$11, 30% less than my Nelson hydro basic fee.

Nelson hydro submitted to the BCUC as follows:

*Nelson Hydro, which describes itself as an interested but not directly affected party, believes that holding the Customer Charge fixed and applying increases only to the energy charges appears to be a good way to make the transition from cost-based to conservation-based rates.*

This was from Nelson Hydro's Interested party submission as noted below.

Regarding BCUC Order Number G-3-12 dated January 13, 2012

Exhibit C2-1 Part 4.2.2 Intervenor Submissions

At the recent city public budget meeting as the conversation was about Nelson hydro rates the mayor stood up and stated "we don't have a Celgar" (Castlegar's pulp mill).

In the local Nelson Star newspaper article Mar. 5 after the city budget meeting they write

***McClure (city CFO) stated that Nelson Hydro replaces the tax base provided to most cities by large industries,***

**Both of these statements above to me say the city uses Nelson hydro as a tax income.**

**My tax bill is one pocket, but my Nelson hydro bill is just another tax masquerading as an electric bill.**

**If the mandate of an electric utility is to make the most reliable and cheapest power there has to be a Cost of Service Analysis that allows this and reserve funds and monies for other capital expenditures.**

**In the on line newspaper The Nelson Daily Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> Councilor Morrison states** The city's electrical utility should not be building its reserves through a general rate increase,

And further down the article the councilor says I see the need for a big reserve there as less important because we can easily go out and borrow money against the utility," she said. "We get very good financing rates (with a utility) .

Can ratepayers be assured the electric rates come from a Cost of Service Analysis for this municipal electric utility, or do the rates reflect what the mayor and council need to meet their budget.

As above from the cities submission *"applying increases only to the energy charges appears to be a good way to make the transition from cost-based to conservation-based rates"*

The new proposed basic rate of \$15.63 doesn't help me see any results in my attempts at conservation and reducing my electric bills.