



## 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

Nelson Hydro 2017 Rate Increase Application

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Christina Postnikoff

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Christina Postnikoff

Date:

16-Mar-17

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.

Re: Nelson Hydro 2017 Rate Increase Application

I would like to thank BCUC for providing rural Nelson Hydro customers an opportunity to participate in Nelson Hydro 2017 Rate Increase Application and hope this will continue in the future.

1) Could BCUC please explain to the people who have written in regarding the Nelson Hydro 2017 rate increase application what is expected from the interveners in this proceeding. Interveners in a regular hearing have to be cross-examined. Is this happening in this type of application.

The Nelson Hydro 2017 rate application is confusing.

In January I wrote to BCUC regarding the application and was told by BCUC:

“Nelson Hydro is expected to file a rate application with the Commission in mid-January or early February of this year.

This application will be reviewed through a public process. Please check our website to see when the application has been filed and when opportunities to participate are open.”

I asked if the public process would be the same as for a FortisBC or BC Hydro proceeding and was told

“The process for the review of the Nelson Hydro application will be determined at the time the application is received.”

Only by checking on the BCUC website did I see that the Nelson Hydro application had been filed. There was no announcement in the paper.

After this there was an announcement in the paper by Nelson Hydro that the application had been approved. The 2017 application has already been approved but then BCUC decided to ask for more information so that is why BCUC placed the ads in the paper for comments. If there are any changes to the application they will be retroactive.

2) The information on Regional Energy Efficiency program is not clear. Could more information be provided on the REEP. If it is funded by RDCK how much does each area fund. How much would area E fund? Nelson Hydro then says that this line item will not proceed. Could they please clarify what this means.

“There is an increase of \$204,000 for the Regional Energy Efficiency program proposed to the RDCK. As this would be funded by the RDCK there is an offsetting contribution of \$204,000. (Since establishing our 2017 budget, we determined that this line item will not proceed) We are now realizing operational savings in some areas as a result of improvements made over the past years, including reduced substation maintenance costs, and reduced emergency trouble call outs and this will result in the Utility base operating expenses are slightly decreasing.”

3) I have attended an afternoon information session in the past by the City of Nelson re Hydro information and there was no one there who could provide any real information.

4) Nelson Hydro does not seem to know how many low-income residents who have no choice but to heat with electricity it is affecting. Are more rural residents heating with electricity. Fortis BC recently did a survey on electricity usage but the municipal utilities missed the deadline. Nelson Hydro should try to participate in such a survey with no cost to customers. Nelson Hydro customers should be made aware of this survey and Nelson Hydro should post it on its website so people can have a look.

5) I would like to know how many calls a year Nelson Hydro has to check on meters and how many are found defective. I read that the digital meters could be reading higher than analog.

I had unusually high jump in consumption (see below). Heating house and water with electricity is very high. I do not think anyone is wasting electricity. It is very hard to keep low. I have lived in the same rural location for sixty years and only a couple of times has Nelson Hydro had to come out to fix anything.

In 2003 heated with oil total consumption 9397 Kwh cost \$645 yr

In 2005 heating with electric furnace consumption 16, 915 Kwh cost \$1172 yr

2015 heating with electric furnace consumption 29,925 Kwh \$3000 yr

This increase will be very hard on low-income seniors. The City of Nelson should ask federal government to increase pensions to reflect energy costs.

Thank you,

Christina Postnikoff

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]