

From: [BC Hydro, Regulatory Grp](#)
To: [BC Hydro, Regulatory Grp](#); [Commission Secretary BCUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Ross, Laurel BCUC:EX](#)
Subject: BC Hydro Responses to E-Plus Homeowners Group Supplemental Questions
Date: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:03:11 PM

From: Jubb, Anthea
Sent: 2017, July 14 1:58 PM
To: Gary McCaig (eplusbcgroup@gmail.com)
Cc: BC Hydro, Regulatory Grp
Subject: BC Hydro Responses to E-Plus Homeowners Group Supplemental Questions

Dear Mr. McCaig,

Thank you for your questions. Please see our responses below.

We have consulted with the British Columbia Utilities Commission regarding the protocol for our responses to questions received outside the information request and response process. We have been advised that it is at the Commissioners discretion as to whether or not these responses can be used as evidence in the proceeding. We will forward this email to the Commission for their consideration.

Laurel Ross of the Commission has invited you to contact her directly at 604-660-4726 with any questions regarding the protocol.

Anthea

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From: Gary McCaig [<mailto:eplusbcgroup@gmail.com>]
Sent: 2017, July 09 10:15 PM
To: Jubb, Anthea
Subject: Fwd: BC Hydro responses to Information Requests - Revised

Hello Anthea

1. Further to my earlier question below I have looked on the web and it appears that BC Hydro's fiscal year ends March 31 - can you confirm?

BC Hydro Response: Confirmed. For example, BC Hydro's fiscal 2015 covers the time from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

As I understand it this would mean that the 2015 Fiscal year would have ended March 31, 2016 and when the Response to EPHG IR # 1.1.1 states that the number of customers "in Fiscal 2015" was 7292 this would refer to the number of customers on March 31, 2016 - is that correct.?

BC Hydro Response: The 2015 Fiscal Year would have ended on March 31, 2015, not March 31, 2016 as asked in the question. The number of E-plus residential customers who were part of the modelling analysis conducted by BC Hydro for E-Plus Homeowners Group Application for Reconsideration was 7,292 on Mar 31, 2015.

Note - confusion stems first from the fact that BCH had earlier during the 2015 RDA given customer numbers for years from 2008 to 2016 (reference Response to BCUC IR 2.148.4 that based on information provided elsewhere was as of the end of the previous calendar year. The number of customers for 2016 (Dec. 31, 2015) was given as 7423 which would be consistent with a drop to 7292 over the following three months. The recent response to BCUC IR 1.7.1, creates additional confusion as it states that the number of E-Plus customers was 6853 "at the end of fiscal 2017".

If the understanding outlined above is correct, fiscal 2017 has not ended yet, Is it possible that this should have read "fiscal 2016"

BC Hydro Response: The reference to fiscal 2017 was not an error. BC Hydro also notes that Fiscal 2017 has ended on March 31, 2017. Differences in specific counts of the number of E-Plus customers may differ for reasons other than attrition. For example, in the analysis done by BC Hydro for the E-Plus Homeowners Group Application for Reconsideration, E-Plus accounts associated with a residential meter billed under RS 1151 (Residential Exempt), were excluded. We excluded these E-Plus accounts from the analysis because they may cover activities such as farming, and are not representative of the general population of E-Plus customers. E-Plus customers with a residential meter billed under RS 1151 were included in the customer counts presented in BC Hydro's response to BCUC IR 2.148.4 in the 2015 Rate Design Application.

2. I also have questions relating to the Table provided in the response to EPHG IR 1.3.5 and 1.3.6. I had tried to phrase this question in a way that would draw out the total bill increases (% and dollars) from the base (starting) period, but it appears that the answers are designed to illustrate the differences between the two scenarios of E-Plus retained or E-Plus eliminated.

IR 1.3.5 asked,

"What would be the median and average total electrical bill of E-Plus customers at the end of the 5, 7 and 10 year phase out periods modelled? What **total** percent increase would this represent over the **base period**?"

The table provided makes reference to "Status Quo rates" and in Table 2 shows that the median bill at the end of the 10 year period is greater than at the end of 5 or 7 year periods which appears to confirm that these "status quo rates" include yearly adjustments for RRA increases.

Am I correct then in concluding that the differences between Table 1 and Table 2 are only the changes to E-Plus rates (RRA increases being applied to both), and therefore that the percent changes shown in Table 3 reflect only the increases due to elimination of E-Plus rates and not the yearly RRA increases.

BC Hydro Response: Yes, the general rate increases were applied to the calculation of bills in Table 1 and Table 2. The percent change shown in Table 3 is between the bill in Table 1 and Table 2, which are inclusive of general rate increases.

Can you show the \$ amounts of Median and Average bills for the base(starting) period - this would allow me to calculate the total percent increase over the entire period which was the intent of the question.

BC Hydro Response: Assuming that "Base" period is referring to fiscal 2017, the year before the phase-out starts, the Median Bill for fiscal 2017 in the modelling sample is \$1,580 (includes rate rider) and the average is \$1,764 (includes rate rider).

IR 1.3.6. asked

"What would be the median and average electrical bill for the E-Plus portion of E-Plus customer's bills at the end of the 5,7 and 10 years phase out periods modelled? What total percent increase would this represent in their E-Plus bills over the base period?"

My questions here parallel those for IR 1.3.5, and again if you can provide the \$ amounts of Median and average bills for the base (starting) period I can easily calculate the information I require.

BC Hydro Response: Assuming that "Base" period is referring to fiscal 2017, the Median Bill for the E-Plus component of the bill for fiscal 2017 in the modelling sample is \$471 (excludes the rate rider) and the average is \$528 (excludes the rate rider).

Thank you for your assistance.

Gary McCaig - for E-Plus Homeowners Group

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gary McCaig** <eplusbcgroup@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 7:12 PM
Subject: BC Hydro responses to Information Requests
To: Anthea.Jubb@bchydro.com

Hello Anthea

I hope you can help clarify a small point for me regarding BC Hydro responses to Information Requests submitted by BCUC and E-Plus Homeowners Group, relating to the the EPHG Application for Reconsideration.

In one of more of the responses (see response to EPHG IR - 1.1.1.) reference was made to the number of customers in "fiscal 2015".

I assume this relates to the end of the 2015 fiscal year - is this the case, and if so when does your 2015 fiscal year end? (e.g. April 30, 2016 or ?).

thank you

Gary McCaig - for E-Plus Homeowners Group

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