



BC HYDRO AMENDMENT TO NET METERING SERVICE
EXHIBIT E-8

May 14, 2018

An open letter to BC Hydro concerning proposed amendments to the net metering program.

We are concerned about the amendments being proposed to the BC Hydro net metering program. Limiting the permitted solar array size to present annual energy consumption is a bad idea because current annual consumption is a poor measure of future consumption. As electric vehicles replace ICE cars and customers switch away from using fossil fuels for space and water heating, electricity consumption will rise and the proposed rule change will result in solar installations that are too small.

At present, less than 1% of BC customers drive EVs. Consequently, their electricity bills do not reflect this energy need. BC drivers average 13,100km/year. At an average EV fuel economy: 5.7km/kWh and with 10% energy loss during charging, charging an EV will require about 2.5MWh/year, mostly delivered at home.

Although BC Hydro may argue that the customer can merely upgrade their array when they get their EV, this approach has the following drawbacks:

1. The extra cost of reconfiguring their present array (roof space, cabling etc).
2. Installing a larger array initially allows economies of scale (i.e., larger arrays costs less per watt).
3. As panels are currently inexpensive and interest rates low, a delay will probably increase installation costs.
4. More to the point, actual measurements of Arctic warming this past winter make clear that Canada's promise to "cut GHG emissions by 30% from 2005 levels by 2030" will not be sufficient to prevent dangerous warming. Consequently, it seems short-sighted to place any unnecessary obstacles to widespread installation of PV panels.

For these reasons, the proposed rule change is a step in the wrong direction. In general, an oversized solar array is one of the few ways that an individual can offset other elements of their carbon footprint that they have little control over (ie: the emissions of essential items: food, clothing etc.). At the very least, Hydro customers who currently don't own EVs should be allowed to install panels sufficient to supply their last year's consumption plus 2 EVs (Last year + [2x 2.5 = 5MWh/year]).

Instead of trying to protect the system of the past, BC Hydro must look to an energy future in which the on-demand nature of hydro can be utilized to supplement wind and solar power elsewhere on the continent whenever they are not available.

The 2° Institute urges BC Hydro to develop a forward-looking long-term strategy in which it becomes the essential on-demand segment of Western Canada's response to Global Warming and gives customers the incentive to transition to an electric car.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Logtenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Ryan Logtenberg, Director
2 Degrees Institute