

Date Submitted: May 29, 2018

Proceeding name: BC Hydro Amendment to Net Metering Service

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: Yes, Interested Party

Name (first and last): Christoph Dietzfelbinger

City: Smithers

Province: British Columbia

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Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:

Dear Sirs or Mesdames, this is to urge you to not allow BC Hydro to end some aspects of its net metering program. Net metering allows citizens to become active participants in energy generation and distribution. It decentralizes the grid which can, with appropriate planning, make it more resilient. And it offers a cheap source of power to the grid. If demand increases, the net metering program is easily scalable. Distributed solar arrays, wind farms, or other generation sources can be built quickly and at much lower capital cost than, say, Site C. Site C will produce power for no less than \$0.12 per kWh. It may cost as much as \$0.16 per kWh once the dam is built. BC Hydro pays no more than \$0.10 per kWh to net metering participants. There is no rational reason to end a program that provides power at a cost not higher (and probably lower) than Site C or many IPPs. The costs of renewable energy continue to fall rapidly. Wind operators in Alberta now undertake to supply energy for \$0.37 per kWh. This is cheaper by a factor of 4 than Site C power. Solar generation is predicted to become even cheaper than wind within five years. Coming such a short time after the decision to continue building Site C, this is an obvious move to discourage the decentralization and flexibility that the net metering program provides. If implemented, it would lock BC Hydro and its owners (the public) into an outdated, rigid, and very expensive system of centralized generation and distributed consumption. BC Hydro needs to go the opposite direction, and as the guardians of the public interest, I urge you to direct them so. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,