

**From:** [Christoph Dietzfelbinger](#)  
**To:** [Commission Secretary BCUC:EX](#)  
**Subject:** BC Hydro net metering  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:49:53 PM

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Dear Sirs or Mesdames,

please accept my apologies if I have already commented on this issue.

I built a 9.6 kWp system with 36 panels at our rural home in the Bulkley Valley in 2017. There were no incentives whatsoever. All labour was local. I signed a net metering agreement with BC Hydro that promised me \$0.10/kWh for any surplus I put into the grid. Our house only averages 15kWh/day and the system seems to average 30kWh/day. This is definitely not financially lucrative, but every little bit helps. Other jurisdictions who wish to encourage distributed generation offer much more.

I personally am not affected by BC Hydro's move to penalize systems that put more into the grid than they withdraw because my contract predates their rule change. I am, however, very much concerned about the discouraging effect this will have on others. BC Hydro seems to be sticking to the outdated concept of centralized generation and distributed consumption. Given the challenges in addressing climate change, it is imperative to reorganize the grid so smaller areas can contribute to it. This would stabilize the grid and free up capacity in transmission.

If electric vehicles are to be more broadly adopted, many people will want to charge them at home. They will want to build larger systems that produce enough to supply their households and vehicles. The vehicles may not be there yet. This is what happened in my case. I could only buy an EV this year. Had BC Hydro not allowed me to build a larger system, this would have been more difficult.

First Nations communities are developing an interest in building community solar systems. Municipalities may wish to do so too. BC Hydro is discouraging such projects from going ahead.

Solar power generation scales easily, can be distributed, is low maintenance, and reliable. It provides local jobs. BC Hydro should encourage its adoption by offering a much better feed in tariff. Its proposed move goes in the wrong direction.

Please disallow it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Christoph Dietzfelbinger  
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