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Proceeding name: BC Hydro F2020-F2021 Revenue Requirements

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: No

Name (first and last): Jo Wright

City: [REDACTED]

Province: British Columbia

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:

Any Increase to BC Hydro rates has a significant impact on any home owner (not an apartment dweller) who does not have access to an alternative energy source for heating purposes (usually natural gas). In addition, the cost of mini-split heat pumps, even with a BC Hydro rebate is prohibitive because they do not heat the whole house (we've explored this option). I strongly suggest that any location lacking access to natural gas (usually small villages or Reserves) should be exempted from the 2-tier rate system and should be charged at the Tier 1 rate. Because of the high cost of energy, home owners burn wood in fire places which has an impact on CO2 emissions and air quality. In addition, because of the high cost of energy we have all changed to LED lights and invested in thermostats, turned down the temperature and worn sweaters and down vests during the day - sometimes it's really not comfortable. I also do not see why we, the electricity consumer, should have to absorb, via significant rate increases, the mistakes that politicians force on the monopoly - namely: the rate freeze by the NDP in the 1990's which meant that BC Hydro deferred maintenance and other construction projects; mandating BC Hydro to become self-sufficient in renewable power which meant sweet deals for the IPP cabal; mandating the introduction of smart meters (with shaky analysis supporting the decision) for the cost of over a billion dollars, where the cost will only be recouped if we move to time of use billing, which is politically unpalatable for both the NDP and the Liberal governments. Sadly, I could go on. I would recommend that BC Hydro not increase the rates (perhaps reduce them, heresy?) and actually encourage us to use more electricity so that they make more revenue, pay off their debts, finance their construction, and we can stop polluting the atmosphere.