

Date Submitted: April 10, 2019

Proceeding name: Nelson Hydro 2019 Rural Rate Application

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

Name (first and last): Len Thompson

City: NELSON

Province: British Columbia

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:

I am a rural Nelson hydro electric customer. I think my Nelson hydro bill funds a lot more than just the cost of a reasonable return for an electric generation and distribution utility. While rural electric maintenance costs might justify a greater electricity cost. I could accept that if I felt that I was just paying for only power.

Rural Nelson Rate Increase Comment

Many items the city is involved with in my opinion should be city taxpayer funded. Nelson hydro is beginning to look like the go to source of funding for political projects of no benefit to Nelson hydro.

Only one of the past city councillors was re elected, her campaign called for more solar power.

The new council is already calling for the city to claim a Climate Emergency.

Councillors are joining other cities in announcing 100% renewable targets for dates unlikely realistic.

Grant money is putting in solar power systems, every kW of solar panels in the Nelson hydro area is lost income that could help reduce my electric rates.

Every year the newspapers publish a list of highest paid city employees, year after year Nelson hydro employees are on the top ten list.

https://www.nelsonstar.com/news/nelson-publishes-payments-to-businesses-organizations-and-staff/

LOCAL NEWS VIDEO CLASSIFIEDS OBITUARIES E-EDITIONS JOBS CONTACT MARKETPLACE CONTESTS

This article was updated at 12:00 on July 26 to add information on payments to Nelson city police officers.

https://www.nelsonstar.com/news/nelson-publishes-payments-to-businesses-organizations-and-staff/

Name	Job title	2014 Payment	Expenses
Love, Alex	Hydro General Manager	\$163,312	6,272
Cormack, Kevin	City Manager	161,503	17,611
Laybourne, Cal	Hydro Lineman	156,353	2,100
Holland, Wayne	Police Chief	156,130	n/a
Laburiaux, Youri	Hydro Lineman	148,206	816
Colgan, Andrew	Hydro Lineman	146,625	\$3,798
Hamilton, Dana	Hydro Lineman	144,435	0
Georgetti, Garth	Hydro Lineman	138,135	1,119
Olsson, Carl	Hydro Design/ Facilities Technician	132,624	560
Burkart, Paul	Deputy Police Chief	130,437	n/a
McClure, Colin	Chief Financial Officer	128,110	4,700
Falcone, Dino	Police Officer	114,275	n/a
Scott-Pryke, Janet	Police Officer	114,859	n/a
Nyström, Robin	Manager of Utilities	112,556	1,919
Bayes, Paul	Police Officer	112,435	n/a
Andreaschuk, William	Police Officer	111,174	n/a
Lynn, Logan	Hydro Electrician	110,994	2,253
Dinwoodie, James	Manager of Public Works	109,542	1,270
Fillion, Allen	Director of Public Works	109,542	1,119

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Eight of the above list are hydro employees. Hydro lineman are achieving up to double their annual basic rate incomes. Is this a management scheduling issue?

Several if not all Nelson hydro employees are in the top ten every year.

Someone who bought a city solar garden panel contract for 25 years received more than the value of a years power, this being the first year. Why were they paid for more than a year? Next year will they receive less than a year.

For years Nelson hydro has been pursuing a biomass boiler project, burning wood to heat water to heat city buildings. One of the latest city projects showed the underground pipes along with other underground infrastructure. These were not installed but information suggests this was put off for the future.

The hydro manager manages the city Greenhouse Gas consultant, whose work seems to involve reducing GHG of city vehicle fleets, buildings and other city contributors.

Is Nelson hydro funding the cities high speed fiber internet system?

Last week there was a news item regarding the city buying electric bikes for city workers with some form of loan repayment program done through Nelson hydro. Possibly zero interest?

Would a private electric utility business with shareholders to answer to involve themselves in all these types of projects? What I see are projects for the political green bump value.

I say let the city taxpayer fund these political projects and rural ratepayers pay according to a reasonable return on investment for the costs of operating an electric generation and distribution utility.

Its far easier for the mayor to raise electric rates than taxes, should rural ratepayers be responsible for what in my opinion are political projects with no benefit to reducing my electric costs.