

**Letter of Comment regarding British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority Application to  
Amend Net Metering Service under Rate Schedule 1289 ~ Project No. 1599004**

I am a former Director of SPEC (Society Promoting Environmental Conservation) and I served as Director for 20 years between 1990 and 2010. During my time on the Board we advocated directly with BC Hydro to bring in the Net Metering Program as a means to support micro-generation of clean energy in BC to eventually replace fossil fuels. We even had a building in Vancouver which was one of the first installations of a net meter (if not the first). That building was owned by the City of Vancouver and has since been torn down so SPEC no longer has that service. However, the principles SPEC fought for at that time are more relevant today than ever because of the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels. Electric vehicles need to be embraced and transitioned to sooner rather than later and this will lead to higher demands from the grid as well. If we are to act on this climate emergency, the demand for electricity will be much higher than current projections depending on how successful we are at replacing fossil fuel vehicles.

More importantly, the cost of clean energy through micro-generation has come down dramatically in recent years to the point where it can out-compete fossil fuel generation. Micro-generation becomes more important than ever as a way to take advantage of these new efficiencies in generating clean, green energy because homeowners can invest their own capital to make it happen as long as the net-metering system is in place to purchase surplus power. This is exactly what SPEC hoped for all along when we advocated for net metering. We expected that it would enable the distribution of clean green energy from thousands (if not tens of thousands) of small producers throughout BC to provide for our energy needs much like tens of thousands of farmers, here and abroad, supply our current food needs.

In order to accommodate micro-generators it is critically important to allow them to achieve appropriate economies of scale so that micro-generation can achieve cost-efficiencies as well. This only makes economic sense and to do this we can't be capping the payment of surplus energy at 110% of the micro-producers domestic load. This is discouraging development of micro-generation, not encouraging it. For instance a person with acreage in a rural area may have perfect wind conditions to run a single wind turbine. That person should be encouraged to buy a turbine at a scale that maximizes efficiency rather than being forced to buy a tiny wind turbine that produces just enough power for his household at a much higher, and likely uneconomic, price. Everyone should be able to benefit from that person being able to provide his surplus to the grid and to the consumer as clean energy in the most cost-efficient manner.

Wind turbines and small run-of-creek hydro generators are far more likely to be cost-efficient at well above a single household's load so supporting this form of generation requires supporting net metering in its previous form so that the cost of the wind turbines or water-powered

generators can be recovered from the sale of the surplus energy. BC Hydro plays a critical role in this vision for the future because the most efficient way to collect and distribute this form of green energy is through net metering.

BC Hydro has stated in press releases that the increased use of net metering in excess of the homeowners needs was not intended by this program. I can certainly say that it was SPEC's intended goal when we advocated for it. It is deeply disappointing to see BC Hydro take the position they now are.

If governments fail to embrace and enable micro-generation through net metering they will be undermining what may be the best way to quickly expand carbon-free energy to provide for the newly developing carbon-free transportation that this province and planet desperately needs. The Commission's decision regarding this application is vitally important to unleash the potential of new clean energy technologies to power our future needs for carbon-free energy. On behalf of all of us who are pushing for a better future with carbon-free energy please reject BC Hydro's application and maintain the previous tariff.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hundal