

Attention: Commission Secretary

For the purposes of full disclosure, in addition to being an owner of a 6.67 kW solar array on my residence, I am also a member of and a director with Peace Energy A Renewable Energy Cooperative ("the PEC") based in Dawson Creek, BC. The PEC designs and installs PV solar arrays under BC Hydro's Net Metering program. My solar panels began producing power in August 2017.

I am opposed to the changes to the changes to the Net Metering program proposed by BC Hydro. Like the other participants in the Net Metering program, I paid for my array without any government subsidies and BC Hydro was not required to upgrade its transmission infrastructure. I am responsible for my array's operation and maintenance should any malfunction occur.

Section 2 of the *Clean Energy Act* sets out British Columbia's energy objectives and they include:

(b) to take demand-side measures and to conserve energy, including the objective of the authority reducing its expected increase in demand for electricity by the year 2020 by at least 66%;

(c) to generate at least 93% of the electricity in British Columbia from clean or renewable resources and to build the infrastructure necessary to transmit that electricity;

(d) to use and foster the development in British Columbia of innovative technologies that support energy conservation and efficiency and the use of clean or renewable resources;

(g) to reduce BC greenhouse gas emissions ...

(h) to encourage the switching from one kind of energy source or use to another that decreases greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia;

(i) to encourage communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use energy efficiently;

(l) to foster the development of first nation and rural communities through the use and development of clean or renewable resources;

(m) to maximize the value, including the incremental value of the resources being clean or renewable resources, of British Columbia's generation and transmission assets for the benefit of British Columbia;

(n) to be a net exporter of electricity from clean or renewable resources with the intention of benefiting all British Columbians and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in regions in which British Columbia trades electricity while protecting the interests of persons who receive or may receive service in British Columbia;

I have underlined the above provisions where I believe that electricity produced from PV solar panels support the stated provincial objectives.

There appears to be mixed messages from our provincial government and BC Hydro. Obscene amounts of money are being spent to develop Site C because BC needs the electricity. BC Hydro encourages its ratepayers to reduce their usage of electricity through its Power Smart program because BC needs to conserve electricity. However, by reducing the compensation paid for excess power, BC Hydro will potentially discourage people from investing in a solar array for their home or business.

Using statistics from March 2019, BC Hydro explained that out of 1,300 Net Metering customers, it purchased 3.2 GWh of electricity from 250 customers (approximately 19% of the total). The total annual payout was about \$324,000. Five customers out of the 250, produced 2.4 GWh of electricity or about 0.4% of the total 1,300 customers. These five customers received \$244,000 or about 75% of the total annual payout.

Looking at this a different way, \$80,000 was paid to 245 customers - an average of \$326 each. In 2017, the cost for the design, purchase, shipping and installation of my solar array was roughly \$22,000. I did not make this investment to become wealthy. Along with recycling and composting, my goal is to improve our environment for the next and future generations.

Our province needs to encourage more individuals to seriously consider installing PV solar arrays on their respective properties. I encourage the BCUC to deny this application.

William Lindsay
Hudson's Hope, B.C.
Interested Party