To: BCUC
Subject: Letter of Comment - Nelson Hydro COSA and RDA - Len Folkard
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2021 8:16:13 AM

Date Submitted: January 30, 2021

Proceeding name: Nelson Hydro COSA and RDA

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: Yes, Interested Party

Name: Len Folkard

City: Nelson

Province: British Columbia

Email: [redacted]

Phone number: [redacted]

Comment:
I am a senior living in Nelson. I am fortunate to own a small rental property in rural Nelson, as well. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Having lived in Nelson all my life, Nelson Hydro was a great alternative to major monopolies such as Fortis and BC Hydro. The City of Nelson has its own power generating hydro electric dam and for years, was said to have some of the best rates in North America. Rates have been rising rapidly in the past few years. I was under the impression that rates were set by the Utilities Commission. Apparently, in Nelson they are set by City Managers. It has come to my attention this BCUC oversight of electrical utility rates is only for rural customers. And now The City of Nelson wants to raise rates on rural customers outside of City boundaries. Unfortunately, this sounds like a back door way of raising rural City of Nelson Hydro customers, to fund City of Nelson projects. I recall around 2012, the city made an extra windfall of selling power, and yet rates went up several percent that year. Add that to the $675,000 water license revenue and it suggests that City of Nelson rates should be much lower. Where are all of these funds being directed? Also, all Nelson Hydro customers should be charged equally for their service, no matter the address. The City of Nelson needs direct oversight of Nelson Hydro and Nelson Hydro finances. Every year, the City of Nelson makes the statement..."Rates are set to cover costs". Does the City of Nelson use Nelson Hydro revenues to pay for other city costs? Are these funds being misdirected at the taxpayers expense? Some public commentary suggests that Nelson Hydro funds Nelson Fiber Optic. And that Nelson Hydro linemen were trained for this. Should rural taxpayers fund these items? I strongly recommend that the City of Nelson have a board of Directors to oversee all of its operations and finances, and also compensation allocated to managers and their and objectives. In my opinion, a total review is required. And a Board of Directors.

Has Attachment:
False