

Sent: February 16, 2021 3:17 PM

Subject: Letter of Comment - Nelson Hydro 2021 General Rate Increase - Renee Wiseman

Attachments: Nelson Hydro rate increase.docx

Date Submitted: February 16, 2021

Proceeding name: Nelson Hydro 2021 General Rate Increase

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

Name: Renee Wiseman

City: Balfour

Province: British Columbia

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:
increase is unfair for rural customer on fixed income compare to Nelson customer

Has Attachment:
True

BCUC
Suite 410, 900 Howe St.
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3
www.bcuc.com/get-involved

Subject: Nelson Hydro's applications for rate increases

To whom it may concern

We received the proposal for Nelson Hydro rate increase and we disagree with the total increase for rural customer. We are on fixed income and realise that they are trying to get most of the increase to rural customers.

The following information came to our attention, and we feel that the increase would be unfair.

The information from Nelson Hydro is either inadvertently or intentionally misleading. Nelson Hydro shows that "current rates do not recover the full costs of serving the rural customers by approximately \$ 1.5 million per year." That result is only achieved by applying a disproportionate amount of the more expensive purchased power from Fortis to rural residential customers. The power that Nelson Hydro receives from its Bonnington plant is much cheaper than the power purchased from Fortis. If the power costs from both sources were allocated to rural customers in the amount we actually consumed, Nelson Hydro would be recovering 97% of its costs. That is well within the accepted rate of return of between 95-110% of cost accepted as standard for power utilities.

In its circular Nelson Hydro says, the typical rural customer electrical bill is \$98.00 per month. In fact, the average bill is \$127.00 per month. Nelson Hydro is asking for increases of 5.72% per year on Sept. 1st in 2021, 2022 and 2023, that will apply **only** to rural residential customers. In additions, the circular mentions a 2.5% increase for all residential customers for 2021, but neglects to mentions that the same 2.5% will be sought in 2022 and 2023. The compounded result of all those increases will be least a **28%** increase in power bills for rural residential customers by 2023.

In slanting the playing field by attempting to allocate far too much of the expensive power to rural costumers, Nelson Hydro, and in fact the City of Nelson, are **unfairly discriminating against their rural customers who work, shop and play in the City of Nelson**. Rural residents already contribute to the well being and economic advantage of the citizens of the City of Nelson.

The other issue is reliability: According to the 2020 calendar, in Procter and Balfour area, we had 39 outages for a total of 67.74 hours without power. In January 2021, we had to rent a room in Nelson as we were freezing and had no power for over 48 hours. We also had the anxiety of loosing everything in the freezer and possibly broken pipes.

We would appreciate if you could stop them from getting that huge increase to rural customers. We should not get more increase than what they have to pay in Nelson.

We are currently paying \$226.00 equal payment every month and with almost 30% increase in the next 3 years, we would pay almost \$300.00 a month. This is just for electrical, and we know how everything else is also going up.

Thank you for your consideration

Renee Wiseman and Marcel Lino

