

To: BCUC
Subject: Letter of Comment - Nelson Hydro COSA and RDA - Kevin LePape
Attachments: NH RDP 2021.odt

Date Submitted: February 22, 2021

Proceeding name: Nelson Hydro COSA and RDA

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

Name: Kevin LePape

City: NELSON

Province: British Columbia

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:
See attached. Please and Thanks.

Has Attachment:
True

Groundhog day. The Bill Murray movie, not the actual, superstitious physical abuse of hibernating rodents in the name of climate prognostication. More like: We've all been here before and it wasn't fun then, it's less fun now. This alone should be reason to reject outright Nelson Hydro's rate design application because it offers nothing new. This has all been said before and rejected by the BCUC. That they would subject us to this once again (albeit with a more folksy spin – I feel like the history lesson is given with a pat on the head and a cup of coco by the fireside) is cruel. I have better things to do. Like laundry. Or clipping my toe nails.

From the letters of comment thus far submitted it appears that more people have cottoned onto the “big lie” as I originally argued years ago: the unbalanced and unjustified allocation of higher-cost power purchases from Fortis BC almost entirely to the rural consumers. Enough has been said about this, that it's arbitrary discrimination and double dipping, that I won't harangue you with the obvious. I mean that you, honourable and distinguished commission, saw through this before and I've no doubt you are not going to be hoodwinked this time. It's kind of insulting that they would try to fly this wheeze past you once again. But I would like to touch upon the equally important issue that this gambit by NH makes obvious: NH's blatant dishonesty. And I mean that literally.

As some other letters have mentioned there was a circular to rural users from NH dated 27 January 2021 delivered through general mail. It is an exercise in “spin”. A self-serving piece of propaganda that isn't worth the paper it's printed on. It purports to justify and validate the proposed rate design and resultant increases but does so by omitting the truth: there is no mention whatsoever of the biggest mathematical reason for the increase which is, of course, the fallacious allocation of non-generated power purchases.

We must ask very pointedly, why is this not discussed at all? Why is it that NH tries to justify it's rapacious behaviour with implied threats rather than clear facts? The threat being that “increasing rates supports reliability” as if, with \$4-5 million of annual profit they don't have the resources to keep the power flowing to us rubes in the country unless we cough up more money. Really.

Further the circular cites the “typical” rate for a rural customer as \$1179.00 per year. This may be mathematically true in the most basic sense as an average but, as many writers have pointed out, it's a fiction in the real world. It is only the average arrived at by including a large number of customers up the North Shore lucky enough to have natural gas as an energy option. The truth is that more than 50% of rural customers heat with electricity augmented by wood and their bills are more like \$3,000 in a year with a hard winter. NH is not stupid so I know they know this.

Given the forgoing I believe that dishonesty is self-evident. That NH would so twist the truth, misrepresent the facts, let's be clear: just plain lie to bolster this fraudulent application speaks volumes to the impossibility of this situation which is unique in BC and a situation the legislation never anticipated. The conflict of interest that is fundamental between Nelson Hydro and it's rural prisoners cannot be solved. Many citizens of the City of Nelson ascribe to the idea that the near rural community “gets a free ride”. No doubt in part because of the public statements to that effect by the mayor, John Dooley. I had this argument with him a few years back in person at an RDCK meeting. I need to point out that one of the very few letters of comment supporting the rate design is from his wife, Patricia Dooley. This issue of the City of Nelson attempting to extort money, indirect taxation, from the surrounding rural area by way of it's monopoly in electrical power supply is not going away. I concur with writer Andrew Howlett: force NH to divest of it's rural distribution and make this headache go away for all time. I'd rather pay Fortis BC more money than be extorted by the City of Nelson any

more. The pirates from the rock at least give you a wink and a slap on the back while they're doing you.

Kevin LePape