Sent: February 28, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Commission, Secretary
Subject: Letter of Comment - Nelson Hydro 2021 General Rate Increase - Louise Cheshire
Attachments: BCUC Louise's letter.odt

Date Submitted: February 28, 2021

Proceeding name: Nelson Hydro 2021 General Rate Increase

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

Name: Louise Cheshire

City: Procter

Province: British Columbia

Email: [redacted]

Phone number: [redacted]

Comment:
I am attaching a letter outlining my objections to Nelson Hydro's proposed rate increase for rural residents.

Has Attachment:
True

I am writing to express my complaint regarding Nelson Hydro's proposed rate increases – amounting to a total of a 28% increase by 2023. My concern is that this proposed increase is for rural customers only and will not include residents of the City of Nelson and that this seems unfair.

Nelson Hydro's explanation and defence of their proposed increase is based on their assertion that it costs more to service rural residents than urban residents – primarily because of the extra expenses incurred due to the clean up of tree debris, etc. in the rural areas following storms.

Our last hydro bill was for $476.22. During the time of that service; there were several power outages, some lasting only 1 or 2 days, and one time it was for more than 3 days. One would think that our usage would have been drastically decreased during those days of no power. Huddling next to the wood stove for heat; reading by candle light or with head lamps; heating up buckets of water in order to wash, trying to keep the food in our refrigerators and freezers from spoiling, etc. . . . . yet, the bills continue to increase???

Nelson Hydro's proposed new fee increases not only do not make it easier for us rural residents to deal with the inconveniences experienced during those power outages – they now propose to burden us further with charging us more for the power to cover the costs of repair during those times.

Nelson Hydro claims that their plant in Bonnington does not produce enough power to fulfill the needs of all of their customers, so they need to purchase extra power from Fortis B.C. at a considerably higher rate. It appears to be their intention to pass this increased cost on to only the rural customers.

My major objection is that this appears to be grossly unfair. We rural residents contribute economically and culturally to the community of Nelson and should not be penalized by Nelson Hydro for living outside of the city limits.

Louise M. Cheshire
Procter, B.C.
[redacted]