Sent: March 3, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Commission, Secretary
Subject: Letter of Comment - Nelson Hydro 2021 General Rate Increase - Rick Sauter
Attachments: Letter of Comment Nelson Hydro Sauter.docx

Date Submitted: March 03, 2021

Proceeding name: Nelson Hydro 2021 General Rate Increase

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

Name: Rick Sauter

City: Nelson

Province: British Columbia

Email: [redacted]

Phone number: [redacted]

Comment:
see attachment

Has Attachment:
True

Objection to Nelson Hydro's Application for Rural Rate Differential

Nelson Hydro claims that the power it generates is entirely used within the City of Nelson. This is false.

During the spring freshet, May through July, the Bonnington Falls plant produces more power than is consumed in the city. Power in excess of the city demand is sold at retail rates to rural customers. Without it's rural customers, Nelsons Power's excess would have to be sold to Fortis BC or the wider grid at much lower wholesale prices. Nelson Hydro does not acknowledge this financial contribution by rural customers in its application.

Conversely, during the winter months with low river flow, does Nelson Hydro generate sufficient power to satisfy demand within the city, or is some of the Fortis power purported to be purchased exclusively for rural areas in fact used within the city?

Nelson Hydro needs to provide data showing amount of power generated weekly or at least monthly at its plant as well as corresponding purchases from FortisBC. Lacking this data, there is no basis for attribution of non-generated power purchases exclusively to rural areas and cost of power should continue to be pooled as has previously been directed by the Commission.

Rick Sauter