

From: Ellen Schmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: March 4, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Commission, Secretary
Subject: Comment re Nelson Hydro COSA and RDA
Attachments: BCUC comment letter.docx

Importance: High

Categories: TBD, pending imm action

Please consider the attached letter re: the above application

Merv and Ellen Schmidt

March 4, 2021

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Re: Nelson Hydro COSA and RDA

To Whom It may Concern:

We are ratepayers on the North Shore of Kootenay Lake affected by the proposed Nelson Hydro General Rate Increase and the COSA and RDA affecting rural electrical users.

We oppose the proposed COSA and RDA for the following reasons:

1. There is no justification for creation of a two-tier ratepayer system. This is a basic fairness issue.
2. As rural residents we are not eligible for positions on the Nelson City Council which sets the rates but is not responsible to its rural users.
3. Nelson Hydro is responsible for its own problems in vegetation management. We have lived on the North Shore for 20 years but it has only been in the last 4-5 years that we have seen anything like a planned vegetation management program. They let the problem get out of hand and want us to pay the price for their poor planned maintenance program.
4. We have the least reliable power in the area. In the past year we have suffered approx. 20 power outages; everything from brief bumps to a 40 hour outage this past January. These outages range from inconvenient to downright dangerous. The bumps and surges damage our electrical appliances and lighting. We have felt it necessary to install a standby generator at significant cost to buffer ourselves from unreliable service from Nelson Hydro. We personally know multiple households who have taken the same measure.

We urge you to decline the application.

Yours truly

Merv and Ellen Schmidt

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Nelson BC ██████████