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British Columbia
Utilities Commission

Letter of Comment

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to submit a letter of comment concerning an application currently before the Commission, please provide a completed form to commission.secretary@bccuc.com. If email is unavailable, please mail the form to the address above. By doing so, you acknowledge that all letters of comment are published with the author's name as part of the public evidentiary record, both in print copy and on the Commission's website. All personal contact information provided on this page is removed before posting to the website. Forms must be received by the Commission by the last filing date included in the proceeding's regulatory timetable before final arguments.

Proceeding name

FortisBC Net Metering Program Tariff Update Application ~ Project No.3698875

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

Yes, interested party

Name (first and last)

Evgeny Beregovoy

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Evgeny Beregovoy

Date:

21 05 2016

Comment: Please specify the reasons for your interest in the proceeding, your views concerning the proceeding, any relevant information that supports or explains your views, the conclusion you support and any recommendations. The Commission may disallow comments that do not comply with the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

To the BCUC Commission secretary

Letter of Comment

I'm a registered electrical contractor in BC and one of my services is installing solar PV systems to people that are environmentally conscious. In the second half of last year I installed a system for a client that wanted to offset his electrical consumption to "0". The 24kw System was designed based on previous six month history for the family (thats all they lived at that location) with FortisBC approving the size. Currently this system offsets this family of seven consumption around the "0" based on the 9 months its been in operation. This was a major long term investment for the family (\$70000). as the family will grow and the children move out, system will be larger then needed for the house so the residence will be a net producer allowing the client to recover some of the money he invested in the system. This was the intent as a bonus to having a large system like this. with the proposed changes that FortisBC is seeking this system will never recover its cost even after 25 years of service. Basically this client installed a solar system to be a "0" power polluter to the environment and based on todays FortisBC rules the system would have paid itself in 25 years. Now FortisBC wants to penalized the citizen for going Green and pay him the same price they pay for coal or gas fired power. I believe FortisBC is trying to take a step back in promoting people going "Green" when it comes to clean energy. BC hydro pays \$0.1-0.15/kw for clean energy producers (IPP) power and FortisBC wants to pay \$0.04218, I believe a net metering producer should be treated like any other clean energy producer in BC. BC Hydro signs 60 year contracts to buy clean energy from IPP's and yet the net metering client is given a one year contract leaving him to rate changes every year if the company wishes too. Its Time BCUC stands up to large corporations and protects the people that want to protect our province by going Green when it comes to power. Small producers should be protected and treated as larger IPP's when it comes to solar. A system like this can't be just dismantled and moved to an area where its more financially feasible to install. I recommend not to make any changes to the program as this would be unfair to the people that have FortisBC as there utility while the rest of the province under BC hydro gets paid retail rate. As a contractor I will no longer be able to advertise to my clients that solar will pay for itself in the long run thus preventing people installing solar as there power source. How can we promote people to use clean energy if this is what there faced with today? We implement carbon tax to promote people to go green and now we have a situation that the people that did make a choice to go green will be treated the same way as a coal fired power plant, where is the green initiative in this? Whats next from FortisBC, a fee to be connected to the grid with solar as it adds unbalance to there system? I strongly suggest we keep the net-metering program as is, as this would be in-line with the rest of the province (BC Hydro).