

Nov. 4, 2016

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For Immediate Release

CRD Raises Concerns with Two-Tier Electricity Rates

Williams Lake, B.C. – At today's Cariboo Regional District (CRD) Board meeting, the Board of Directors passed a resolution in opposition to the current two-tiered system for electricity rates in B.C. The Board strongly disagrees with how rural customers living in northern climates are penalized under the two-tiered rate system.

The current system for electricity rates is unfair for rural customers in northern climates who have higher rates of electricity use simply due to their geographic location and the harsher realities of winter. Electricity rates should take into consideration the average electricity consumption for northern climates and customers should not be penalized with high rates for living in a northern climate.

The Board also is concerned that the two-tier electricity rates are a hardship for low-income residents.

BC Hydro and FortisBC have submitted reports on the impacts of the Residential Inclining Block Rate to the BC Utilities Commission. The BC Utilities Commission is now requesting comments on those reports.

The Board reviewed the reports and strongly disagrees with the premises expressed. The CRD will be submitting a comment to the Commission expressing their concerns and their disagreement with the reports from BC Hydro and FortisBC.

The CRD Board also urges residents to read the reports and submit their comments to the BC Utilities Commission. Residents can provide comments by mail, email or through the Commission's Letter of Comment Form found online at bcuc.com/Register-Letter-of-Comment. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016.

The reports, titled BC Hydro Utility Report and FortisBC Utility Report, can be found on the Commission's website at bcuc.com under Current Proceedings > BCUC RIB Rate Report > Hearing and Other Documents or bcuc.com/ApplicationView.aspx?ApplicationId=506.

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