

BC Hydro 2015 Rate Design Module 2 Open House – Residents of Fort Ware (Kwadacha Nation)

31 January 2017 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fort Ware (Kwadacha), BC Summary

TYPE OF MEETING	Public consultation/town hall meeting	
FACILITATOR	Shane Hiebert	
PARTICIPANTS	Kwadacha Community Members (approximately 40 people)	
BC HYDRO ATTENDEES	Shane Hiebert, Regulatory; Eva Hoffman Elofir; Customer Service Operations; Lisa Whitney, Aboriginal Relations; Ben Gardiner, Conservation and Energy Management	
AGENDA	1. Introduction and Overview of the RDA Process 2. Electricity consumption information and customer characteristics 3. Rate Options for Zone II 4. Other Module 2 Areas of Relevance for NIA Customers	

MEETING MINUTES				
ABBREVIATIONS	Commission - BC Utilities Commission NIA - Non-Integrated Areas - BC Hydro's customer service areas not connected to BC Hydro's integrated electrical system. RDA - Rate Design Application	Zone I - Rate zone that applies to all customers on BC Hydro's Integrated System Zone II - Rate zone that applies to all Non-Integrated Areas communities except Bella Bella who are on Zone IB rates.		
1. Introduction and Overview of the RDA Process				

Shane Hiebert provided an introduction, which explained that the presentation focused on the preliminary rate design options being considered for Zone II customers, which includes Fort Ware (Kwadacha). Shane also provided an overview of the Rate Design process. Copies of the presentation were handed out to attendees.

FEEDBACK	RESPONSE
Our electricity costs should be lower in the winter. Here in the north, we have significantly longer hours of darkness in the winter that requires more lighting, and colder winters that require heat. We have very limited fuel alternatives to meet these needs.	
At the time Kwadacha took service with BC Hydro, we were unaware that we would be charged a higher rate than other BC Hydro customers in B.C.	Customers in BC Hydro's Non-Integrated Areas, which are remote and not connected to BC Hydro's integrated system, are on a different rate structure. The Zone II rate structures that applies to Fort Ware customers are in part, based on Zone I rates. Whether a customer on Zone II rates is charged more or less than a customer on Zone I rates depends on how much electricity that customer uses.

Electricity consumption information and customer characteristics 2.

Shane Hiebert provided an overview of comparable rates in other provinces, consumption and Rates in Zone I and Zone II.

FEEDBACK		RESPONSE
3.	Does Manitoba Hydro's residential rate for remote customers not connected to the Manitoba Hydro grid allow for electric ranges?	BC Hydro understands that Manitoba Hydro's terms of residential service limits electricity demand to a maximum 60 amps, and is intended to discourage space heating.
4.	What is the total cost per kWh for serving Zone II and specifically Kwadacha customers? How does the cost of serving Fort Ware compare with other communities in the NIA?	At the moment, we have not finished completing the Cost of Service Study for the NIA. A detailed Cost of Service study, which will include information on the cost of serving Fort Ware and other communities will be provided to the Commission as part of BC Hydro's rate proposal for Zone II customers. While differences exist in the cost of serving customers in the various Zone II communities, it should be noted that there will also be differences in our costs of service for Zone I customers.



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3. Rate Options for Zone II				
Shane Hiebert provided information about Rate Options for Zone II customers and the pros and cons of each.				
	FEEDBACK	RESPONSE		
5.	How do all these options affect BC Hydro?	BC Hydro does not currently have a preferred option at this time and is seeking feedback from customers to understand your views of these options. The presentation materials includes a list of pros, cons and considerations as identified by BC Hydro.		
4. Other Module 2 Areas of relevance to Non Integrated Areas customers				

Shane Hiebert explained that the presentation includes other information that BC Hydro is exploring as part of its RDA Module 2 review and that the material includes information on Street Lighting rates, Distribution Extension Policy, Small General Service and General Service customers as well as Customer Service improvements.