



File: 0360-20-27

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

3400 - 30TH STREET VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA V1T 5E6

TELEPHONE (250) 545-1361 FAX (250) 545-4048

January 19, 2021

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Via email: ubcm@ubcm.ca

Brian Frenkel, President
UBCM
Suite 60 – 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

Dear Brian:

**RE: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) – 2020
Street Lighting Rate Application**

On November 12, 2020, BC Hydro submitted a 2020 Street Lighting Rate Application to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). In short, the application was to INCREASE the costs of street lights to local municipalities due to BC Hydro replacing existing HPS fixtures with LED luminaires. BC Hydro provided public notice December 8, 2020.

BCUC has established a regulatory timetable for input to the Commission.

BC Hydro reports to BCUC that there are approximately 90,000 street lights to replace.

The City of Vernon has made application for intervener status.

On review of current letters of comment to BCUC and intervener documents, I note there are only a small number of municipalities represented (10+/-). UBCM does not appear as either intervener or providing comment on behalf of member municipalities. This is a cost item for most municipalities. Modest municipalities like Vernon, and smaller municipalities, in particular, need UBCM support and involvement.

I want to emphasize the application is to INCREASE rates premised on changing out HPS lights to highly efficient LED luminaires. The costs to the City of Vernon alone will be in the order of \$40,000 +/- per year. This makes little sense.

The electricity cost SAVINGS to the City of Vernon, as we change luminaires from HPS to LED (1,325 City owned lights) is in the order of \$70,000 per year. The estimated cost SAVINGS for typical maintenance is \$44,000 per year. Considering actual costs of replacement, the Return on Investment (ROI) is approximately 5 years (\$44,000 + \$70,000 annual cost savings).

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January 19, 2021 Letter to B Frenkel

I am respectfully asking that UBCM become involved and represent municipal members before BCUC. Regardless of how this is framed, the application to INCREASE hydro rates to local municipalities, permitted on retrofilling LED luminaries makes no sense.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victor I. Cumming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Victor I. Cumming
Mayor

Copy: UBCM members