

Mr. Andy Wells  
 Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
 Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities  
 P.O. Box 21040, 120 Torbay Road  
 St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

January 29, 2013

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am writing to express my concern over Newfoundland Power's application to the Public Utilities Board for an electricity rate increase of 7.2 per cent to residential customers. It is unacceptable that an increase to the bonuses for the shareholders be of more concern than the welfare of the customers. The increase will place undue financial and psychological stress on a large population of customers, especially on seniors citizens, low-income earners and those on a low fixed income.

In recent years we have seen a huge increase in rent, on food, as well as an increase in travel costs, due to such things as the cost of gas. Another increase that is rarely highlighted is on medication and medical supplies. Some seniors have to go without their medications because they do not have the funds to purchase them.

A 7.2% increase to power rates will place me in an even more desperate situation than what I am currently enduring. I am a type 1 diabetic and a person with a disability. Therefore, the increases to food has made it impossible for me to eat 3 healthy, diabetic focused, meals each day. As for the cost of heat and light, it's not just about turning down the thermostat. I have an electric wheelchair that needs to be charged each night, an oxygen concentrator that has to run 8-12 hours each day and a breathing machine that has to be used all night. These are not optional and it's usage can not be reduced to save on the power bill. This is actually a reality for persons with disabilities and some seniors that go unnoticed and not considered. Increasing the power rates at a time when the cost of living is so high would be risking the health and, in some cases, even the lives of people.

Furthermore, for the past 4 years I have been seeking to rent a wheelchair accessible living space. Only on 3 occasions was I able to find a suitable apartment, but in all 3 situations I was no less than \$350.00 short of being able to afford the cost. If Newfoundland Power's application is approved and I have to endure a 7.2% increase on my bill, then I fear I will never be able to live in a wheelchair accessible apartment. I will have to continue to live in a place that is both inadequate and unsafe.

I am therefore asking that out of concern for the many customers, including myself, that the application by Newfoundland Power for a 7.2% increase in rates, that will benefit the shareholders but further jeopardize the health and well-being of many of it's customers, be denied.

Thank you for your time and interest and I hope you find in favour of the public interest.

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]