

A reasonable price to pay for new energy technologies

BY GUY DAUNCEY, VANCOUVER SUN OCTOBER 19, 2010

Re: Get ready to pay more for power. A lot more, Oct. 16

This editorial does such a poor job of researching B.C.'s proposed feed-in tariff (FIT) that its conclusions are way off-base.

Ontario's feed-in tariff has generated contract commitments worth \$8 billion. If B.C.'s were similar, with our much smaller population it would generate contracts worth \$2.6 billion. But in reality, because 95 per cent of B.C.'s electricity is already zero-carbon, the proposed contract commitment is for \$25 million -- 320 times less than \$2.6 billion. Thus, any resulting price rise might also be expected to be 320 times less.

The stated purpose of B.C.'s planned FIT, which is clearly laid out in the proposal, is not to generate a large quantity of power but to stimulate the development of newer, renewable energy technologies and the use of renewable energies in non-integrated areas that burn diesel for power.

The B.C. Sustainable Energy Association has proposed extending the FIT to include renewable heat and solar photovoltaics associated with high-efficiency buildings and electric cars. We have also argued for doubling the budget to \$50 million to give more support to these emerging technologies.

The impact of \$50 million in annual contracts would be an initial increased cost of just 8.4 cents a month on an average hydro bill of \$60 (a 0.14-percent rise), rising to 84 cents a month by 2020. We think this is incredibly good value to help develop these technologies.

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