

EB-2016-0085

March 7, 2017

Ontario Energy Board

Via ONLINE COMMENT SUBMISSION

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing today to submit my comments regarding the proposed Distribution Rate Increase by InnPower. As a long-time customer of InnPower, I can tell you that the residents of Innisfil can no longer afford the services they are offering, and yet we have no choice which is why I am appealing to you today.

Recently the Provincial government realized how completely unaffordable hydro has become in the Province of Ontario, and launched the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan, with the Premier coming on our local news and promising Innisfil Residents, who pay the fifth highest rates in the entire Province, that we would benefit from the 25% decrease in hydro rates. Of course, we were thrilled, that even though the plan may not be a sound one in the long term, residents here can't afford to be the fifth highest. We simply on average don't make that much money. Immediately on the heels of this announcement, residents learned that InnPower has applied for a RATE INCREASE. We are told that it's to offset costs incurred by an ice storm, but the timing leads most residents to believe otherwise. InnPower is simply trying to offset the lost revenue by the Province's plan.

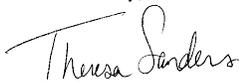
Our largest concern is that InnPower is a private entity. We have no idea what the executives earn. We have no idea what their bottom line is. Our Mayor sits on the Board of Directors, and yet residents are not privy to information that we used to know as the Town owned and operated InnPower. Even meetings held with the Town are not done during regular Town Council meetings so as residents, we are not privy to the documents distributed or the exact details of what gets discussed. Perhaps if we knew that the executives were all making the same average of residents, then we would be more amenable to a rate increase. Perhaps if there was some accountability that the rate increase would indeed go to offset costs, and not boost profits and line pockets, we'd be more understanding.

InnPower promises us that rates will continue to decrease as more housing gets built and more residents go on the grid. Yet we are not given specifics of these decreases, we are not given information as to how long this may take or how much the rates will go down, how many new homes will need to be built for this decrease to happen. There is no reason why long-time residents should be punished for InnPower's lack of ability to grow at the same rate as the housing. We should not have to pay extra because of their decision to build a state of the art 13.1 MILLION dollar head office structure, including an additional and completely useless art sculpture at the whopping price of \$125,000. This structure and sculpture were not necessary to service the approximately 16,000 residents, nor even for the estimated 26,000 residents that will be here by 2023.

InnPower can not keep putting their poor decisions on the backs of residents. InnPower should readjust their own spending, possibly look at restructuring their executive base and explore cost cutting measures within their own company before being allowed to increase rates yet again. The residents of Innisfil can not afford this rate increase, and I am appealing to you, the Ontario Energy Board, to recognize InnPower's mismanagement and hold them accountable.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Sanders". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Theresa Sanders