

March 9, 2017

I attended the OEB Community Meeting, Innisfil, on March 9, 2017

No one is in favour of needless expense, certainly, so it is not surprising there is widespread opposition to a rate increase. But there should be a good reason, and that reason should be available to ratepayers.

I heard nothing that explained or justified InnPower's request for a rate increase for its distribution tariff to its customers.

CEO Wally Malcolm had ample opportunity to make a case for this but instead he dealt with generalities and unrelated issues.

I, like many present, have to question the fiscal management that a) had InnPower making this request of OEB with an impossible deadline (applying in late November for a rate change effective in January); b) applying for an increase of over 20% during a period of restraint; c) not having argument, figures nor rationale for customers to see.

Because hydro rates increased during 2016 and InnPower's billing of distribution charges is tied to consumption, distribution have already increased recently.

The OEB is in a better position than I to judge the financial management of this community owned utility. Perhaps there is good cause for this rate increase buried in their application, but I urge the reviewers to bear in mind the community's skepticism about InnPower's history.

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