

**From:** [Shelly-Anne Connell](#)  
**To:** [Tamara Collins](#)  
**Subject:** FW: EB-2018-0270 FW: Letter of Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 11:03:27 AM

---

-----Original Message-----

From: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 2:58 PM  
To: Shelly-Anne Connell <ShellyAnne.CConnell@oeb.ca>  
Subject: EB-2018-0270 FW: Letter of Comment

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Sunday, December 9, 2018 9:25 PM  
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>  
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --  
2018-12-09

-- Case Number --  
EB-2018-0270

-- Name --  
Isabelle Launchbury

-- Phone --  
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --  
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --  
December 9, 2018

Re: EB-2018-0270  
Hydro One Networks Inc. MAAD S86 to Purchase Orillia Power Distribution Corporation.

Dear Ms. Walli,

As a customer of Orillia Power Distribution Corporation, I am writing with my concerns about the sale of Orillia Power Distribution Corporation to Hydro One! The legacy of our power company, formerly the Orillia Water, Light and Power Commission, has lasted well over 100 years! Once our local power company became the Orillia Water, Light and Power Commission, local council had the right to make changes, but only after holding a referendum for the citizens to decide if such changes were wanted!

Our local power has a number of firsts:

- a) First generation plant for hydro on the continent;
- b) At a point in our history, Orillia's power was the cheapest in all of North America;

- c) It was responsible, at one point in time, for providing the electric power to make Orillia's main street the most brightly lit main street in the country.
- d) Until 1954, Orillia was totally self-sufficient for power from our own Orillia Water, Light and Power Commission.

It must be noted here that under our local power commission, Orillia customers were the shareholders, and received dividends each year from the commission's profits. Once it became the Orillia Power Corporation, these dividends were to be given to our local hospital, Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital! However, what has happened is that the City of Orillia created debt where there was no debt! That is, this dividend money was rolled into the general budget for the city, and now, they are claiming that Orillia Power Corporation is in a deficit position! This, Ms. Walli, is not true!

The citizens of Orillia have been kept in the dark on the details surrounding this proposed purchase deal! All we have been told by our Mayor and Council is that this sale is going to be really beneficial! We have been told that Hydro One promises certain things, but Council admits nothing is in writing!

The assets of our distribution arm of Orillia Power Corporation is around \$55,000,000, and Hydro One wants to pay about \$26,000,000 for it! Our mayor states over and over that the distribution arm of OPC is only selling poles and wires! This is a lie! Much more is involved in this sale!

The City of Orillia has stated that it is the sole shareholder! That means that as citizens and taxpayers, we are shareholders, and we don't want to see this legacy sold 'down the river'!

The Ontario Energy Board has ruled that Hydro One, after purchasing other local power systems, did not provide lower costs or better delivery, and these other local power systems are telling Orillia not to go for this sell-out of our utility!

The one percent reduction in distribution costs for the first five years after is laughable! That amounts, on our bill, to about \$3.90 per month, hardly enough to notice!

OEB has turned down this request for the sale on two separate occasions already, and we do not believe anything has changed. It is still a bad deal for Orillia's citizens.

Therefore, I ask that the OEB request an independent audit of the Orillia Power Distribution Corporation before this sale is even considered again!

Then, and only then, if that audit deems that everything is above-board, and the results of this independent audit are presented to all citizens of Orillia, can Hydro One and Orillia Power Distribution Corporation submit another application to the OEB!

Sincerely,  
Isabelle Launchbury

-- Attachment --