

**From:** [Shelly-Anne Connell](#)  
**To:** [Tamara Collins](#)  
**Subject:** FW: EB-2018-0270 FW: Letter of Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 11:05:24 AM

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

From: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 3:14 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: Friday, December 7, 2018 3:36 PM  
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>  
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --  
2018-12-07

-- Case Number --  
EB-2018-0270

-- Name --  
Thomas and Susan Langlois

-- Phone --  
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --  
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

Re: EB-2018-0270

Hydro One Networks Inc. MAAD S86 to Purchase Orillia Power Distribution Corporation We are writing as customers of Orillia Power Distribution Corporation [OPDC] to express serious concerns about the overall effect of this transaction on the customers of OPDC.

Hydro One Inc., the owner of Hydro One Networks Inc., has applied to the Ontario Energy Board for approval to purchase all of the shares of OPDC for

\$41.3 million, consisting of \$26.4 million cash and assumption of OPDC's stated \$14.9 million debt. The application before you is substantially the same application which the OEB found lacking this past summer.

We have looked through the application and cannot see where this purchase is in the best interests of the customers of OPDC.

OPDC has been in successful operation since 1914 when Orillia established the first long-distance power transmission system in Ontario. It was this local focus that made Orillia and the surrounding area a place to do business and raise a family. It is this local focus that will be irrevocably lost if the proposed sale is allowed.

The OEB itself, in other rulings, has found that assumption of local services by Hydro-One did not improve costs or

delivery. On the contrary, shortly after Hydro-One's assumption of other municipal systems, costs rose and service declined. Recently, Hydro One efforts to assume distribution systems in the USA have been disallowed for similar reasons and other municipalities in Ontario have shared this position.

Neither Hydro One nor OPDC have demonstrated that this transfer of ownership and responsibility will, in effect, improve or sustain the current levels of service and costs to consumers. The extension of rates in the offer through to 2030 represents an existing condition of the existing rate structure not a new offer by Hydro-One.

Maintaining control of the entire electricity grid allows Orillia Power to minimize electricity rate increases to residents and local businesses within the Orillia city limits and surrounding areas. If any portion of the process is sold to Hydro One, the rates will be subject to competition which will undoubtedly result in rate increases.

We believe that the Orillia Power Distribution is seriously undervalued. We ask that OEB, at a minimum, require a new audit of OPDC by an independent entity to determine the true market value of this acquisition, and to determine if it is in the best interests of all of the consumers of OPDC services.

Until such time that an independent audit report is available, we hereby request that OEB deny this purchase application.

-- Attachment --