

Tamara Collins

From: registrar
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Tamara Collins
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter of Comment - EB-2018-0305

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

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 3:05 PM
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2019-01-25

-- Case Number --
EB-2018-0305

-- Name --
Jake Schuknecht

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

As a resident of St. Catharines with no formal background in energy, rates, or anything like that, I find the timing of this rate increase of poor taste.

I attempted to do some research, and found the documentation for this application far over the head of a simple lay-person such as myself. That said, the fact that Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. and Union Gas Limited merged together and then almost immediately afterward requested a rate increase gives me the feeling that this rate increase has more to do with covering their merger costs than actual inflation or regular day-to-day costs. I'm sure they would argue otherwise, as most business people do, but to residents like myself, it appears that this proposal is directly related to their merger and not to inflation or other rising costs of business.

It appears from page 148 of 390 in the Index of Appendices document (Rate Handbook) that a rate was approved on October 1, 2018. If this is the case, I question why there needs to be a change in rates a mere 3 months later. Based on that same document, it appears on page 72 that EGD is already bringing in revenue of \$1,212,414,000 per quarter. They suggest that the rate increase proposal would increase their proposed revenue by \$24,095,000, which is a substantial increase, although I suspect the increase would be far greater than that.

Perhaps they listed this and I cannot find it amidst the thousands of pages, but I fail to see a real reason as to the need of this increase. Is the cost of business going up? Are their partners/service providers charging more?

Where does it explain to a simple-person the rationale for this increase? I cannot find one anywhere. The simplest reason I found was "inflation", but I question if their calculations are accurate. Based on my own situation, my gas bill is around \$100/month, and they're suggesting an increase of \$5.74.

This would be a 5.5% increase, far above the rate of inflation. To be fair, I have cannot accurately say whether my usage is similar to what they based their calculations on.

All this to say, I object to the rate increase because (1) I believe it is intended to cover their merger costs, (2) they failed to inform the average citizen in simple terms the real need for a rate increase, (3) their calculations for covering inflation do not add up to me, and (4) it appears as though there was a rate approved only 3 months previously.

-- Attachment --