

Notice to Tenants Opposed to Smart Meters

You may be aware of a recent move by the Ontario Energy Board to convene a written hearing on the issue of whether certain landlords who had taken it upon themselves to install smart submeters in rental units and then convince or force tenants to take on direct responsibility for their electricity bills should actually be allowed to do so.

Many of you have already heard or will hear from other tenants in your area about this because the landlords in question were required to serve a Notice of Written Hearing by the OEB upon all rental units affected.

The Advocacy Centre for Tenants of Ontario (ACTO) is seeking to stop OEB inquiry on the following grounds:

1. The OEB purports to be able through this process to make a change to existing contracts between landlords and tenants concerning responsibility for electricity payments. This is clearly more appropriately dealt with by the Ministry of Housing and/or the Landlord and Tenant Board.
2. As such, this is also a duplication of scarce government resources, given that the Ministry of Housing is already in the process of dealing with the issues.

In the alternative, ACTO is asking the OEB to hold an in-person hearing on the following grounds:

1. This is an important issue potentially affecting hundreds of thousands of tenants in Ontario. Thus, any proceedings on this issue should be open and transparent, and the participants should be held to accountability.
2. The OEB, in taking this route, is diverging from their past practice concerning an analogous situation – smart sub-metering in condominium units. Regarding condos, there was a long and detailed consultation process. Tenants deserve the same or a higher level of consultation, particularly as (unlike condominium owners) they lack control over making structural changes to their rental units. The OEB, at the very least, should follow the same process they did regarding proposed implementation of smart sub-metering in condo units.
3. Evidence and statistical data will likely be complex, and accordingly should be open to full scrutiny and testing through cross-examination.

If you have been affected by smart-metering as a tenant, or if you simply wish to oppose the OEB hearing process, you may register a complaint about this situation. Tenants (and all other interested parties) have only until **May 26, 2009** to share their thoughts with the OEB on this.

Please write to the Ontario Energy Board, citing file number EB-2009-0111.

Address of the OEB
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Board Secretary

Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (toll free)
Fax: 416-440-7656
E-mail: Boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca

Important

If you do not file an objection to a written hearing or if you do not participate in the written