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ONTARIO ENERGY BD

427 Sundial Dr.,
Orillia, Ont.,
L3V 4A7
28 Oct. 2009.Ontario Energy Board,
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge St. Suite 2701,
Toronto, Ont. M4P 1E4

Dear O.E.B. Members:

It has come to my attention via the "Orillia Packet & Times" that Orillia Power Corporation (OPC) has applied for a 10% increase in rates through you for us to pay. The article (enclosed) states this would equate to "an overall impact of 4% on OPC customer's bills (\$3.82)". What will the H.S.T. do to that figure? How does the application 10% increase rate mean just 4% for the consumer? The consumer has already paid dearly by buying more efficient energy wise homes, appliances, lights, etc. to reduce energy consumption. The consumer has been taxed on these upgrades. There is a big price difference between a \$0.25-60 watt incandescent bulb vs a \$2.50 C.F. (13 watt). It amounts to: "Pay more for less!"

"Over the past 8 years, OPC has paid the city \$25 million in interest and dividends..." We, the consumers paid that amount and that equates to nearly \$2 million H.S.T. So, why does OPC need a 10% rate increase or any increase? In reality, there are good years and lean years. The Corp. has had good years and now ought to draw upon its reserves. Even though O.P.C. has contracted to supply electrical power to its (cor) customers, the consumers are still smarting from the "August Blackout" a number of years ago.

Please find enclosed a copy of my Sept. '09 OPDC statement. My real usage was 537 kwh. Billed usage is recorded as 556.87. In the statistical chart, "Usage History", consumption

is recorded as 557 kwh. Is it any wonder statistics are deemed to be "lies"? This is irksome since a gross up of 4% on consumption, plus tax, lacks accountability. Why isn't this covered under "Delivery", a basic charge which is exorbitant enough!

OPDC collects "Debt Retirement Charges" + GST. Why is a debt, pre GST, taxed? What is the justification for collecting a tax on a debt which was incurred through mismanagement, i.e. the "goods" and "services" were overvalued. The auditor general reported that the taxpayer was shortchanged by Ontario Hydro.

Recommendation: No rate increase since O.P.C. has yet to prove it is an efficient and responsible corporate citizen. The consumer has been on the hook / frontline for too long - pay, pay, pay! It's time for O.P.C. to do some "belt tightening" and find a market for its excess power at competitive rates. The "smart meter" program in this recessionary time is ill conceived and an added burden for the consumer. O.P.C. will be looking for another rate increase next year --- and the year after! When will it ever stop? Enough is enough!

Respectfully submitted,
R. A. Ritchie