

12/14/10
RECEIVED
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CB-2010-0292

To: Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
27th Floor, 2300 Yonge St.,
Toronto, On M4P 1E4

Re: Application from Horizon Utilities
Electricity Distribution Rate Change

With reference to the above application, I wish to make the following points:

1. The heading is misleading: I looked at my most recent bill and found nothing with this title - "Distribution Rate"
 2. Smart Meter ~~Funding~~ Adder: this does not appear anywhere on the bill. I do not recall being notified of any such charge when the Smart Meter was installed - nor did I have a chance to refuse the meter. This appears to be a "hidden charge", hidden in something called on the bill 'delivery'. Living within a restricted budget, I would certainly remember if such a charge had been included in the Smart Meter information brochures.
 3. The proposed increase in the Meter Funding Adder is more than 50% of the present charge and will result in an increase of more than \$10.00 per year, ON TOP of other increases which are being made, as well as the increased costs due to the Smart Meter - the 'off peak' rate alone is higher than the previous rate, and I can't do everything after 9 p.m.!
- And of course, these increases will also result in an increase in the HST.
A NECESSARY UTILITY SHOULD NOT BE TAXED AT ALL.
4. How long will we be forced to pay for these meters? I would prefer to pay the cost outright (as I did with my water meter), but have been told that this is not possible.

As costs for electricity go up, we'll be forced to switch - gas stove instead of electric, wood burning stove, candles or oil lamps instead of electric..... Then, if usage drops so that the payments do not cover expenses, will we be charged even more (as with water usage in Hamilton)? Penalized for conserving!

The following points apply to Horizon Utilities, Hamilton:

1. Please identify all charges on the front of the bill so we know 'up front' what we are being charged, and make terminology more honest, so items are not hidden under vague headings.
2. Use an easily-read print type for the reverse of the bill - at present it is gray type on white; or is this meant to discourage readers?

I trust that this application will be turned down.

Shirley E. Gibbon
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