

March 14th, 2008

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

Attention: Kirsten Wally, Board Secretary

Dear Kirsten:

We are writing to ask your assistance in helping us to seek intervenor status, or late intervenor status, in the hopes that we can stop an initiative currently underway by Hydro One.

This initiative, should it succeed will impose on us a major financial burden, which we fear will necessitate our closure, with the attendant loss of real employment. We have been told by Hydro One that our bill increase 300%!

We are The Hopper Foundry (1977) Ltd., a small historic iron foundry in the South West Ontario town of Forest. This business began in 1861 as a Livery, Blacksmith Operation and has managed to stay alive and grow since then. We are an iron foundry, who recycles all scrap metal, auto parts, brake drums, etc., and melts and casts new cast iron parts for pumps, farm machinery, municipal castings, snow plows, farm drainage etc. We draw our scrap metal locally and employ local workers as well as purchasing from several Ontario supply businesses.

We employ a modern state of the art induction-melting furnace to melt the scrap metal. We believe we are on the "side of the angels" in our use of electricity, as we do the heavy electrical usage work in the melting of the metal, during the night time, when most other businesses and residences are in the low ebb of their power requirements. For this consideration, we have had an agreement with Hydro One (formerly Ontario Hydro) that we were given an incentive in the form of lower electrical rates as long as we melted "off peak time".

We were visited by Mr. Mark Boucher, of Hydro One, last Friday, March 7th, 2008, who advised us of this impact.

Specifically we have been billed under a system referred to as "Interim Time of Use Rates". To qualify under this system we understand that a users energy use during the day had to be limited to one half or less of their nighttime (off peak) use. We certainly have met that consideration as our daytime use is typically less than 10% of our nighttime use. Mr. Boucher informed us that Hydro One has applied to the OEB to discontinue the "Interim Time of Use Rate" system. We are told that there are not

many firms in Ontario that have qualified to benefit under this system. Hydro One did not even ask for an extension to the “Interim Time of Use Rate” billing protocol.

During our Friday meeting, Mr. Boucher told us that the opportunity for appealing their initiative has already passed. We pray this is not so, and if so, we would strenuously object to the way this issue has been handled.

Mr. Boucher held out that a possible solution would be for us to spend massive amounts of money to run a feed line from a higher voltage source in town, to buy a new higher voltage transformer and to reconfigure our plant willing to suit. Quite frankly, this level of expenditure would be impossible for our small firm and we would have to shut the business down. We feel that if this initiative goes forward massive Hydro One will simply trample little Hopper Foundry.

Again, we feel we have structured the operation of the foundry to use electrical energy in an efficient way, when others are asleep and not wanting it. We had been told historically that the town supply could not handle Hopper and the town both drawing during the day.

With the current initiatives underway in the province, i.e. home houses equipped with “Smart Meters” to encourage more owners to power “off peak times”, it seems absolutely incongruous we are being punished for having efficiently structured our electrical usage. We ask for your help in directing our efforts to obtain intervenor status to speak against Hydro One’s initiative to trash the “Interim Time of Use Rate” billing protocol.

Hoping for a reply and opportunity to discuss this matter we remain:

Respectively Yours,

The Hopper Foundry (1977) Ltd.

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