

Ontario Energy Board
PO Box 2319
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Toronto, ON
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21st April, 2012

Dear Sir,

Re the application by Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro (CNDH) to Increase the Distribution Rate as posted in the Cambridge Times, Apr 17, 2012

I would like to register my objection to the application to increase CNDH hydro bills to reflect the recovery costs of deployed smart meters.

When smart meters were first rolled out it in 2009 it was estimated that they would be completely rolled out across the province by the end of 2010. This information is available on Hydro One's website:

<http://www.hydroone.com/MyHome/MyAccount/MyMeter/Pages/SmartMeters.aspx>

It is now 2012 and it would seem that the rollout is not completed. When the decision was made to install smart meters, a cost that has also been absorbed by hydro customers, then surely CNDH had to plan for this including creating a budget to reflect the costs. If the utility is behind on their rollout then it should absorb the costs by cutting back other costs instead of trying to download the overrun to the consumer. The delivery charge is already 38% of my hydro bill and what I can only assume to be poor planning on the part of CNDH should not constitute an increased cost to me nor to any other hydro customer.

In addition, starting July 01 every hydro customer in Ontario will pay an extra 81¢ per month to cover the cost of collecting and processing the data from the meters as reported in the following article: <http://www.therecord.com/news/canada/article/693016--power-bills-could-increase-to-cover-new-smart-meter-system> bringing the total increase, due to smart meters, to \$2.45 per month. This is an increase, on the delivery charge, of almost 7% which is more than three times the rate of inflation.

In addition, it has been reported that hydro rates will rise on May 01. This is not the delivery charge portion but the energy use portion and is estimated to be an increase in the amount of \$3.99 to the average hydro customer. As reported in the following article, peak and mid-peak costs will rise more than 8% and off-peak will rise by 4.8%:

<http://www.moneyville.ca/article/1164661--peak-hydro-rates-to-rise-8-per-cent-on-may-1>

an increase of four times the rate of inflation and more than twice the rate of inflation, respectively.

I am very careful not to waste hydro and, overall, my bill will increase by 6.50%, not due to my extravagance, but due to the inability of CNDH to manage this project and for Hydro One to keep their costs under control. Again, this increase is more than three times the rate of inflation which was reported at 1.9% in March.

The fixed charges on my bill amount to 52% of the total bill. These are a regular fixture on all utility bills and do a disservice to conservation as there is little point in conserving in an effort to keep your bill down when the utilities think that the only way to manage their costs is to pass it along to the consumer.

The proposed increase to the CNDH delivery charge should be denied for three reasons:

- Hydro bills have already been increased to absorb the costs of deploying smart meters.
- Hydro rate increases due on May 01.
- Smart meter increases due on July 01.

Regards,

Mary Mitchell

Copies to: Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro
Rob Leone, MPP for Cambridge
Tim Hudak
Andrea Horwath
Dalton McGuinty