

From: Cheryl [REDACTED]
Sent: December 9, 2013 9:41 PM
To: BoardSec
Subject: EB-2013-0321

Dear Ms. Walli and members of the OEB,

I am writing to you regarding the never-ending increases hydro rates and charges and the application to the OEB for further increases. Over the last many years we have regular increases to our hydro bills that have surpassed CPI pushing Ontario ratepayers to the edge. The final straw is the arrogance of the Ontario Energy Minister, Bob Chiarelli in telling the Ontario people that they need to "take control of their hydro bills", after revelations of billions of dollars in waste in regards to cancelled power plants and green energy programs which we had no control over, nor saw any benefit from.

We as ratepayers should no longer be held responsible for poor financial decisions and government policies to which we have no vested interest. We have taken extreme measures to control our hydro usage as does everyone we know, only to be faced with larger and larger bills; we use less so that they may charge us more. The Ontario Government, Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation need to take control of their budgets and operating expenses and stop viewing the Ontario ratepayers as sponges ready and willing to absorb these continual rate increases.

As an accountant, I acknowledge to cover their expenses Hydro needs to increase their revenue, decrease their costs or a combination of both. The first option - generate more revenue by increasing the customer base/demand or increasing prices. That option has been exhausted, we have the highest rates in Canada! The next option - reduce programs and/or spending and streamline operations to ensure maximum efficiency. No further increases to hydro rates or charges should be approved and savings should be found in reducing costs, renegotiating agreements and streamlining operations, such that they learn to operate within their means. These entities need to learn to operate like a businesses and less like a government, and stop bleeding the Ontario people dry. The revenue source is exhausted, with no tolerance for further increases.

All of us taxpayers and rate payers must operate within our means, we are responsible to pay our debts and living costs and we can't just go to our employers twice a year and demand salary increases because we made bad choices and can't pay our bills. Ontario Hydro consumed all of the smaller hydro entities and in doing so created a mega monopoly which has created a monster that has escalated costs and wasted billions. Enough is enough.

I am also curious about the Ontario hydro debt which financed these acquisitions, and would like to know a date as to when that will be paid off, and when we can see these fees discharged? We, the ratepayers, are being held responsible for many bad business decisions yet Hydro executives receiving bonuses and salary increases, Ontario working families are struggling and it is of no concern to Hydro One, Ontario Power Generation or to the Ontario government.

Hydro is not a luxury it is a necessity which most need to survive and for businesses to operate and keep us employed, fed, warm and alive. Pensioners are being forced out of their homes because of hydro bills that are eating up a huge portion of their fixed incomes. We are paying the highest rates in Canada, why is it that other provinces can provide hydro at much lower cost, for this reason alone you must put a stop to the constant hydro rate and fee increases and say Enough is Enough! Our bill is much more than just

usage rates and up to 2/3 is the ever increasing delivery costs and debt retirement.

These so called "Green Energy" initiatives have only served to line the pockets of the rich buying hydro at rates far exceeding what they sell them for. Paying for businesses to retrofit their lighting and building systems and passing these costs onto consumers who can no longer afford to keep their lights on or cook with electrical appliances. We can't afford these so called "green programs" and should not be forced to pay for them, we shouldn't be held responsible for these decisions and forced to pay for programs that provide wealth and benefit to few. Why should we pay to help businesses retrofit their building lighting systems, yet receive no benefit, we did not agree to this and thus shouldn't be expected to pay for this decision through hydro rates and fees.

The ball is in your court to listen to the Ontario ratepayers and stop this insanity. We urge you to do the right thing and deny any further rate or fee increase. Demand that Ontario Hydro and Ontario Power Generation and all those involved start making sound fiscal decisions and learn to live within their means, demand they operate this mega monopoly efficiently and in the best interest of their customers and deny any further rate or fee increases. Someone must stand up to these bullies and give them a reality check, our pockets are empty.

Take Care
Cheryl