

From: [BoardSec](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: File # EB-2013-0416, Written Comment
Date: February 14, 2014 11:04:27 AM

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Sent: February 14, 2014 4:16 AM
To: BoardSec
Subject: File # EB-2013-0416, Written Comment

After viewing the written comments submitted for the file EB-2013-0416, I am dismayed that there are so few from the general Public. This may be due the difficulty in navigating the OEB website, in other words it is not apparent where one can make comment.

I am well educated and hold an MA from UQAM, but due to an unfortunate accident, find myself crippled and on a fixed, low income pension. I live in an area Hydro One has classed as rural low density. At present, my Hydro One utility bill accounts for 13% of my total monthly income. If these rate increases continue as projected, my bill will be 23% of my total monthly income. I now pay \$0.20 per kWh for delivery above the monthly point of delivery rate fee of \$33.03. So Time Of Use costs (minus the point of delivery rate fee), are in truth, as follows; \$0.33, \$0.31 and \$0.27 per kWh for Peak, Mid-Peak and Off Peak respectively.

I do not own a dishwasher, I do not own an AC, I do not own a TV, I haven't a cottage, hot tub, or pool. I have nothing but LED bulbs in use in my home, and I do not heat with electricity. I haven't gone on a vacation in over 20 years. I struggle each day to make ends meet, to keep food on the table for my daughter and I.

I do everything during Off Peak. Comparing my January 2013 to January 2014 Hydro One bills, I have further cut my consumption by 196 kWh, for a total consumption of 885.2014

kWh, and of that 627.5760 kWh were during Off Peak, for a month that averaged -40 C. It is disheartening to continually have to find new ways to conserve energy in the last 5 years, at the detriment of my health, to pay an ever increasing utility bill. I calculate that I will not be able to afford any Hydro by the time I reach 60, as my pension is indexed at 1%, and rate increases are well above that. This is not an exaggeration, I know what it is to live without electricity, and will now have to consider it again as a permanent state in my latter years.

My situation is not unique; I know a young family who moved out of province as they could no longer afford Hydro One, Low Income Pensioners who "give over" 1/3 of their income in equal billing to just one Corporation. As anyone, we have other financial commitments; insurance, phone bills, heating costs, taxes, etc. There is a crisis at hand, a whole sector of Society; low income families, seniors/pensioners, who are increasingly ill-fed not able to afford to cook a decent meal, heat their homes, wash their clothes, or afford a regular bath. 5 years ago a local food bank was set up to support 4 families, that number has risen to 20 last year, and 40 this year. We are forgoing groceries to pay our Utility bill.

Low income seniors and disabled individuals barely survive at \$6,000.00 below the recognized Canadian Poverty Line set at \$18,000.00 per year. So when one Utility accounts for 1/3 of an individual's total yearly income, that is a situation I would "class" as obscene.

With all due respect, emergency financial assistance programs are a one time band aid solution to a much larger festering dilemma.

Ontario is second only to Nunavut as having the highest electricity costs in the Country.

These increases affect all sectors of the Economy, among them; food production, costs and availability, access to basic nutrition, hygiene, and shelter. Something has to give, and for once, why can't it be the Common Folk, those who have worked hard all there lives, and continue to do so, financially unable to retire, those who haven't been as fortunate, or had the opportunities of the governing financially privileged mainstream.

Keep us in mind, we who live and work in rural areas, we are many although seldom heard. We are at our breaking point. I ask that you care more for people than the bottom line, there is so much at stake.

Most Sincerely, K