A submission by Patrick J Hurley to the Ontario Energy Board re. Hydro One Inc. EB 3013-0416

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The following are my recommendations to the OEB following my participation at an oral hearing before members of the Board on Tuesday September 16/14.

1. I strongly recommend that the OEB grant no rate increase of any kind to Hydro One unless they first agree to cut their operating expenses by at least 10%.

Any corporation can cut their operating expenses by 10% and feel little or no effect in their operations. This is an accepted fact in business today.

It is reported that Hydro One has over 11,000 employees that are earning in excess of $100,000.00 per year. With this broad base, a reduction of 10% will have little or no effect on their operations. The introduction of smart meters has reduced the manpower need to read meters substantially.

Ontario residents are already pay the highest rates of any Province in Canada. This is causing hardship to many of them especially senior citizens living on fixed incomes. Hydro rates must come down not go up. In my view Hydro One is mismanaged and changes must be made in their operation.

1. Cottager owners who close their cottages during the winter months should not be billed for delivery charges. Year round local residents can carry the costs of operations during those months. Cottage owners pay for delivery during the summer months only when they are using hydro. They should be able to notify Hydro One not to deliver hydro service to their cottage during the months the cottage is closed for the season.
2. Residents who have forced air electric heating and are stuck with no alternative like the residents of the Halton Condominium Corporation at 1359 White Oaks Blvd. In Oakville Ontario, should be given a 30% discount on their hydro bills from October through April. Many of these owners are senior citizens living on fixed incomes. Some received bills in excess of $500.00 a month last winter to heat a 1,200 square. foot condominium.
3. High hydro rates in Ontario are driving business out of Ontario costing thousands of jobs. Ontario lost 20,000 jobs in the month of August alone. This reduced tax base increases the tax load on middle class tax payers in this Province.
4. No further rate increase should be approved by the OEB for a period of 4 year period. Make Hydro One operat in a responsible manner like any other good business.