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To: BoardSec

Subject: Letter of Comment Submitted: EB-2015-0073

LETTER OF COMMENT

Comments:

In order to keep my comments brief, I will not include statistical data in support of my comments. I am sure the Ontario Energy Board is very familiar with them.

Since the early 1990's, Hydro in Ontario has been continually (and rightly) criticized for paying its staff salaries and benefits that are significantly higher than equivalent positions in the Ontario private sector. No valid reasons have ever been presented by Hydro to substantiate this excessive use of taxpayer funds.

In the past 20 years, Hydro has done nothing to correct this situation and it continues to pay its staff far more than is required.

Had this approach to top-end renumeration resulted in superior customer service, best-inclass internal efficiencies and highly attractive hydro rates for consumers, I would be cheering them on.

Instead, we have appalling service, including what could only be termed an ugly scandal involving Hydro One's recent billing practices and its shocking treatment of customers; we pay the highest Hydro rates across most of North America; and yet they continue to pay excessive and unnecessary salaries and benefits using the public purse.

Now we have another planned increase in Hydro rates for Guelph with no evidence that this organization has any intention of reducing their internal costs or improving their operational efficiency in order to keep their prices under control.

As an Ontario taxpayer and resident of Guelph, I am entrusting the Ontario Energy Board to represent me, and thousands of my fellow citizens, in declining this rate increase request on the basis that Guelph Hydro first needs to get its own house in order by aligning its operational costs to that of the private sector in Ontario. Only once it has clearly demonstrated appropriate restraint, improved operational efficiencies and reduced its overall operating costs should it be allowed to request any increase in revenue that will be paid by the working people of Ontario.

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