

Subject: FW: Letter of Comment Submitted: EB-2015-0004
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Attachments: [May 2015.pdf](#)

From: webmaster@ontarioenergyboard.ca [mailto:webmaster@ontarioenergyboard.ca]
Sent: June-04-15 5:28 PM
To: BoardSec
Subject: Letter of Comment Submitted: EB-2015-0004

LETTER OF COMMENT

Comments: *(please see below and attachment)*

1. While I can understand the need to increase HydroOttawa's fare, I believe the increase is larger than it needs to be, as it several times the inflation rate. I can understand an increase of maybe twice the inflation, but more than that makes me wonder whether the company could not be more efficient.
2. More importantly, here is an aspect of HydroOttawa's fares that needs correcting as it is very unfair: the practice of charging commercial rates for the common areas of a residential complex. I live in a small 14-townhouse complex, of which I am the treasurer. Last year, when I questioned why HydroOttawa's bills were so high compared to my personal bills even though the consumption was a lot less for our common area (basically, in the summer, all there is that takes power are about 10 light bulbs), I discovered the reason: the outside of the building (our common elements) is considered "commercial space", and is charged a much higher monthly fixed charge (\$16.72 instead of \$9.67, i.e. \$7.05 more plus HST), for no reason since no business is conducted in our yard. The bill is separated from the bills of the individual townhouses only because lighting the outside is a common expense, not one that could be attributed to one unit instead of the others. Yet, for the privilege of having an extra bill, we have to pay close to twice the fixed charge. This is non-sense. This fixed charge is supposed to cover the cost of keeping the place connected to the grid, plus billing fixed costs. How can Hydro explain the difference in billing?

I attach the latest bill for my complex as an illustration. You will see on it that for a consumption of 71 kWh, there is a \$19.98 delivery charge, which is more than 70% of the total bill. The \$16.72 fixed charge represents more than 60% of the total bill. Compared to it, the cost of the electricity itself (\$6.52) is almost negligible.

I am therefore asking the Ontario Energy Board to declare that the outside of a residential complex is residential, just as the inside of that same building. Note also that one must to Hydro's Web site to know what's in this charge. I started suspecting the billing issue when I compared the complex bill to my personal one which has a much lower delivery charge for a much higher consumption. At the very least, please make sure to tell Hydro to make the charges more transparent.

Thank you for your attention.

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