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From: webmaster@ontarioenergyboard.ca [mailto:webmaster@ontarioenergyboard.ca]
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LETTER OF COMMENT

Comments:

Reference: Application File Number EB-2015-0004

In the last half of the 20th century, many apartments and condo buildings were built with electric baseboard heating because it was considered reliable, efficient and economical.

I bought a modest upper end unit stacked condo in 2000. I loved it because it had lots of windows and was so bright. However as the cost of hydro started going up and the 3-tiered pricing came into effect I became more aware of my kWh consumption. I now have energy efficient appliances, do laundry only on week-ends, etc., and the condo recently installed energy efficient windows. I have also resorted to wearing three layers of clothing during the winter months so that I can turn the thermostat down during peak hours.

Yet despite my best efforts, while my kWh consumption is being reduced, my hydro bills keep getting higher and higher. In addition, the Ontario Clean Energy Rebate of 10% is scheduled to end this year.

While there is a planned rebate for low income families planned for next year, i.e. a family of four with an income of \$28,000. will save up to \$455.00 a year. I imagine that with such a low income many would not be owners, but renters whose hydro is included in their monthly rent and therefore excluded from this plan. Exactly how many families would actually qualify for this rebate?

I'm sure there are many people like me - retired or mothers with young babies or physically challenged people - who are home a lot during the winter months and who are facing the same situation. We are not living in McMansions or carelessly wasting our electricity. But, unfortunately, there is no provision made for people who have no choice but to turn on the electric heat during our bitterly cold winters during peak hours and pay the highest prices either directly to hydro or through increased rent.

Or perhaps Hydro, in all its wisdom, might suggest that I sleep all day and stay up all night during off-peak hours when I can crank the heat up.
That actually sounds like something they might say.

The proposed increases seem reasonable if you only take into account the summer months when my kWh consumption is less than 500. But when winter comes and my kWh

consumption is four times that amount because I have turned on the electric baseboard heating, then it is unsustainable and I will soon be putting my condo up for sale -if anyone will buy it.

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