

Keith H. Moyer

July 17, 2016

Ontario Energy Board
ATT: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary
boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca

**Re: Rate Increase Applications
File EB-2016-0160 (Hydro One) and File EB-2016-0152 (OPG)**

Dear Ms. Walli:

I realize I am wasting my time contacting you as it historically has shown that the Ontario Energy Board has never received a rate increase application from any Hydro related entity that it has not almost fully supported and rubber stamped. It is obvious that Hydro or OPG has full departments which do nothing but prepare reams of paper in support of their next rate increase application, while we, mere consumers, get as little notice as possible to prepare any rebuttal. The Hydro One notice of hearing was publicly published on July 8th, giving consumers until July 22nd to respond, while the OPG notice was published July 16th, with a July 26th deadline. The presentation evidence from the applicant in both cases is extensive on your web site and is the product of many months of research and preparation by (no doubt) a team of well funded, well supported people at both Hydro One and OPG. It should be no surprise to you that we consumers are not well funded and do not have the human resources to do the same background research to rebut the applications, but, obviously, the OEB feels that this is fair.

We consumers must use the electrical power provided by these entities, and have no choice or competing supplier, and the ever endless application after application for another rate increase from both of them are swiftly becoming unaffordable for a growing number. These so called "assistance programs" are currently only helpful to those of us living at the very bottom of the economic scale, but, it is swiftly becoming a "race to the bottom" as more of us are being pushed to the limit by these Hydro entities.

Your statement in the hearing notification is as follows:

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

"Financially viable" to whom? With more and more consumers struggling to make choices as to pay either their Hydro bill or, pay rent or buy food, it certainly cannot mean "viable" for the people requiring this essential service. The words "reasonable cost" brings the question, "reasonable" to whom? Is it your agency's contention that it is "reasonable" to simply allow rate increases that the public cannot sustain? Employees and executives at any entity dealing with Hydro are not having problems paying their bills while ordinary customers are reaching a point where they cannot cut back any more. Given that the OEB has a very poor record of seriously questioning or denying a rate increase application, especially from a Hydro entity, one must also call the contention of "impartial" into question. Most consumers are confident that both rare increase applications will be fully approved by the OEB, as presented, with little or no push back.

Such is life in Ontario!

Sincerely

Keith H. Moyer A.I.H.M.