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Ontario Energy Board
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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

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Re: Hydro One Distribution Rate Application
EB-2017-0049
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

I am submitting the following request concerning transparency and clarity about the distribution grid of Hydro One and “zoning” in the grid for your consideration. Specifically, how zones transit from high density to medium density to low density?

I live on Front Road, in the township of East Hawkesbury, along which the power lines run between Hawkesbury and the village of Chute A Blondeau. The city of Hawkesbury is supplied through Hydro Hawkesbury, the village of Chute A Blondeau by Hydro One. The village of Chute A Blondeau has a medium density classification, whereas my location is considered low density. My “beef” is the following. Along Front Road, from the Champlain township line to the village of Chute A Blondeau, there are >15 customers per line kilometer, which would satisfy “medium density” designation. However, because of how customers are clustered along this approx. 10 km stretch of power line, Hydro One alternates medium and low density zones along Front Road, rather than applying an average for this stretch of power line.

In previous discussion/ correspondence with Hydro One I was given to understand the Hydro One does have a computer tool by which they determine whether a customer is in a low or medium density zone; however, this tool is a confidential, internal Hydro One tool only.

I respectfully request that the OEB:

- Consider asking Hydro One to provide a grid map on their Website, identifying, possibly color coded, high, medium and low density zones.
- Consider clarifying, whether medium density zones are delineated by village limits or >15 line customers per kilometer, as in rural settings. It seems to me unreasonable that a customer a few feet past the village limit would be classed low density, because of the hard cut.

I attach some pictures with further comments for clarity.

Best regards


Gernot Seebacher

Cc: Township of East Hawkesbury



Pic. 1: The city of Hawkesbury is on its own “Hawkesbury Hydro” grid, and by the size of the city it should be considered an “Urban Density Zone”.

The distance from city limit Hawkesbury/ township line to the village of Chute A Blondeau is approximately 10km, along Front Road, along which the Hydro One power line connects Hawkesbury with Chute A Blondeau.

Along Front Road, from the township limit East Hawkesbury/Champlain to the village of Chute A Blondeau, there are enough customers that this section of the power grid could be considered “Medium Density” as total No. of customers/distance satisfies the min. 15 customers per circuit kilometer requirement.

From previous discussions with Hydro One, I understand that along the power line along Front Road, between Hawkesbury and Chute A Blondeau there may be stretches with some customers classed Low Density and others Medium Density.

However, Hydro One does not have a publicly available grid map showing the various zoning. Therefore there is no transparency of their determinations. The OEB may want to consider asking for such a map on Hydro One’s website, to provide more transparency.

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Pic. 2: Red arrow indicates 2331 Front Road.

According to Hydro One, the village of Chute A Blondeau is "Medium Density Zone" along "Rue Principal" for the east-west limits, indicated by the blue arrows; the village limits are somewhat further east and west. There is no "transition" from Medium to Low Density.

To the west, the area at the intersection of Golf Club Road and Front Road has a customer concentration that satisfies Medium Density Zone class requirements. Using the 15+ customer per power line km, this Medium Density Zone extends then to the area of Gourly Road/ Front Road intersect, which with current Hydro One "zoning logic" leaves a stretch of somewhat more than 1 km of power line as a Low Density Zone. On the other hand, counting customers from east to west enlarges this "Low Density Zone".

It seems illogical to rate a 10 km stretch of power line over 8 km as Medium Density Zone, then drop for a 2 km stretch to Low Density Zone, before classing the village Medium Density Zone again, to finally drop back to Low Density Zone for the sole customer about 100 meters east of the village, where the line ends.

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Pic. 3: The Medium Density Zone for Chute A Blondeau lies between the two blue lines, Low Density Zones are East and West of these lines. That means that 1705 Front Road, less than 100 meters east of the village limit, where the power line ends would be considered Low Density Zone, because Hydro One arbitrarily starts a new customer count at the end of Rue Principale, rather than counting the customers connected to the power line.

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