

[REDACTED]

From: registrar
Sent: July-27-17 2:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter of Comment -

Original Message-----

From: webmaster@ontarioenergyboard.ca [<mailto:webmaster@ontarioenergyboard.ca>]
Sent: June-07-17 10:19 AM
To: registrar
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2017-06-07

-- Case Number --
EB-2017-0049

-- Name --
Michael Dabros

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

I object to this application in the strongest possible terms. This rate increase proposal is both unwarranted and immoral. Unwarranted because as a provider of a life necessity, Hydro One already makes a very healthy profit as recorded in the public record (\$721M in 2016, <http://www.hydroone.com/InvestorRelations/FinancialReporting/Documents/Hydro%20One%20Limited%20Annual%20Report%202016.pdf>).

Immoral because as over 60,000 Ontario households were threatened with losing their power connectivity this past winter due to their inability to pay extortion rates for electricity, waste and excessive compensation and bonuses are rampant at Hydro One. For example, the top 800 wage earners at Hydro One and OPG earn over \$250,000 per year, and the top 3800 earn over \$100,000 per year (<http://www.torontosun.com/2017/02/10/disclose-hydro-one-salaries-pcs>). This in an organization that employs a total of 5,619 regular employees (2014) and 2,237 temporary, contract and part-time employees (2014). Further, Hydro One employees still pay less than 40% of their pension costs while ratepayers pay the remaining 60+%, in a country where the standard has become 50-50 sharing of these costs. Hydro costs already constitute my single greatest monthly expense (more than mortgage and food combined), regardless of the time of year, and this is due largely to the inequity of distribution charges (I pay an artificially high rural delivery rate all of the time because I am not eligible for smart metering due to my home's location).

Distribution charges alone constitute close to half of what I already pay, and is in excess of \$300 per month in most winter months. Holistically, if I divide my hydro bill by the number of KWHs used, I am already paying about \$0.34 per KWH. Half of this is so called delivery, for which we pay the highest rates in the province already. One would think that all this power gets generated in downtown Toronto and Ottawa and must be delivered to rural users, when in fact it is a simple burden-sharing decision whereby rural users appear to be subsidizing urban centres. If these increases (which exceed the rate of inflation) are allowed to proceed, within two years I will have no choice but to consider leaving this province and moving someplace where my pension has the prospect of supporting a reasonable lifestyle for the remaining years of my retirement. My family is on the road to becoming hydro destitute, and in the name of social justice this rate increase needs to be turned down. Hydro One needs to be told to find these funds elsewhere by moving to a reasonable standard for wage compensation, bonuses and pension funding, by implementing a simplified universal charge for delivery that does not intentionally victimize rural residents, and by being forced to first trim costs in other areas where their spending is clearly out of control, as would be done by any other business. In the current market there are no market forces that force Hydro One to take this step on their own, given that they are essentially in a position of monopoly. It is therefore incumbent on the OEB to fulfill their mandate and protect ratepayers from these unwarranted and immoral increases.

-- Attachment --