

[REDACTED]

From: registrar
Sent: August-18-17 11:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter of Comment -

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Original Message-----

From: webmaster@ontarioenergyboard.ca [<mailto:webmaster@ontarioenergyboard.ca>]
Sent: June-06-17 6:37 PM
To: registrar
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2017-06-06

-- Case Number --
EB-2017-0049

-- Name --
Richard Pethke

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

Ontario has the dubious distinction of having some of the highest hydro rates in Canada. Our industry is being welcomed with open arms in the Border States using cheap Ontario power that we sell at a discount or sometimes even pay them to take in order to balance our networks.

The Green Energy Act, which could more accurately be renamed as "The Red Ink Act", forces intermittent and variable supply from massive wind turbine farms and large scale solar to be taken first causing even more variability in the grid and even more cost as existing water turbines are spun down. Is power from existing hydro dams not green enough that we have to spill water? Large Renewable Project 1 (LRP1) proposals are still active and being shoved down the throats of unwilling hosts. Despite the public suspension of LRP2, LRP1 Wind turbines continue to be quietly promoted to construction over the next year or two and will only add to the already adverse cost structure.

The poor, elderly, disabled and others on fixed (or no) income are the ones most affected by a distribution rate increase, but are the ones most likely to see disconnection for payment issues and be even more adversely affected by the proposed increase in service charges on disconnection/re-connections, removal of load limiters and , account collections. These increases would be added to their bill before any rebates from the Fair Hydro Act, 2017 are

implemented. How will adding punishment and increased fees help matters for those who already cannot pay? It may very well have the opposite impact from that intended and decrease receipts for Hydro One as more consumers and industry are forced over the brink.

Salaries at Hydro One were exempted from the annual public sector salary disclosure last year; however even in 2014 about 3,800 workers were paid over

\$100,000 that year. New filings show that CEO Mayo Schmidt was paid \$4.5 million in 2016 — an \$850,000 salary plus bonuses — and the top five executives were paid a total of about \$11.7 million.

Premier Wynne promised electricity rate relief with her government's Fair Hydro Act however she did not disclose that that Hydro One would still be able to apply for rate increases despite this new law. This government's energy policies continue to add burden to our already expensive electricity system.

On a personal level, I was recently quoted a mandatory \$1500 fee just to provide a firmer than plus/minus 50% cost estimate to relocate a rural hydro pole by 10 feet in a straight line. That's not the cost of the work. That's merely the fee to firm up the estimate even after a worker had been on site and determined that it was a very simple matter and the pole is over 60 years old. No one mentioned that it's scheduled for replacement but Hydro One was still willing to charge me a hefty quote fee.

While it is understood that there is a real and pressing need to maintain the distribution networks, there are obviously lots of areas where Hydro One and the government can manage costs more effectively rather than adding this additional burden. Attention must be paid to what is driving the cost increases rather than just tacking on more. I've only given a few examples.

The rate increase with the possible exception of 'use of poles' should NOT be approved until Hydro One and this government gets their act together.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

-- Attachment --