

Roxanne and Charlie Emery



June 26, 2017

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Attn: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary



RE: File EB-2017-0049

Dear Board Members

I am writing to you regarding Hydro One's application to raise electricity prices. As much as there is a reason as to why the rates are increasing, the explanation doesn't matter. The bottom line is there is another electricity increase. It seems like the few that live in the Hydro One jurisdiction, in our situation Northwestern Ontario, carry the load for Ontario and those living in an area that can negotiate a lower delivery rate by Hydro commissions. There is no sign in the future that this situation will get any better. Residents are penalized as they choose to live outside high density areas.

It is annoying that residents now get a deduction for provincial taxes and the rate will be increased. In our world, EVERYTHING requires electricity and yet this is not considered an essential service and no government or board is lobbying for hydro / electricity to be identified as essential.

We believe it is important that money is spent wisely and for us we would recommend Hydro One to stop paying CEO's and other management positions such a high wage and severance packages. Really! If Ontario Energy Board or Hydro One is interested in salvaging Ontario who is the first executive to take a philanthropic approach and say "no" this is too much and give back to the citizens of Ontario by having the money redirected back to the tradespersons and those that repair the lines. Those workers that the public talk to and are our neighbours.

In addition there is waste with coupons, pamphlets, letters showing us a neighbourhood comparison of electricity use. When we see this marketing campaign we may as well burn our money, because that is what they are doing with what we are paying. There are other less expensive, more effective ways to reach the public. Instead of Hydro One providing (a bandaids) other alternative methods for those that have difficulty paying their bills ... suggest they take one for the team and find a way to reduce the rates or change the time-of-use price periods. We did respond to Hydro One and their surveys ... did it help? ... did it make a difference?

Citizens are already being nailed with the "Time of Use" consumption. A short time ago, the message was "cut back, conserve electricity" and the reward for doing this was increasing the rates. Ontario residents listened and were negatively rewarded.

For ourselves, we have chose to live in the northwest we built recently and found as many conservation methods without going off grid (air to air heat pump with propane back up; hot water on demand; well-insulated basement and house; southwest exposure; highest rate windows for this area; energy efficient appliances then living and cooking frugally). I'm not sure there is more improvements that can be made and again, our reward is raising the rates.

In this community and Ontario where 65 years old residents are more than 14 year olds. Many residents are on fixed income either as a retiree, a student or requiring social assistance. Many employed residents follow the work and are choosing to leave northwestern Ontario. We are a one industry town, already fighting MPAC with high assessments and higher municipality taxes. Residents face limited health care professionals and the higher costs associated with transportation and food. The hydro rates challenge any economic development projects and any industry wanting to open up in northwestern Ontario, not to mention youth out-migration and the limited employment should they want to return

here. The rate increase would create a perfect storm in Ontario.

We urge the board not to agree and approve the increase in rates as requested. We hope that this is not just a rubber stamping process as this is a monopoly. Our opinions and our thoughts should count. If the public speaks they should be listened to|

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