

R. Telford

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regarding file: # EB-2018-0014

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APR 23 2018
ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

To whom it may concern:

I would respectfully like to submit the attached comments regarding the proposed merger of Alectra and Guelph Hydro.

I am a retired employee of Guelph Hydro and a lifelong citizen of Guelph until retiring a few years ago. I still have family residing in Guelph.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Comments regarding file # EB-2018-0014

Alectra has only existed for a short period of time and was created from a merging of 3 not very successful companies named Horizon, Powerstream and Enersource. Guelph Hydro has been serving the city of Guelph since 1907 when it was formed under the name of The Board of Light and Heat Commissioners of Guelph. It is a financially sound, profit making utility and pays a substantial dividend to the city of Guelph every year. Guelph Hydro presently has a market value of about 250 million dollars.

Alectra says it could lower electricity rates in Guelph, but commercial rates in Guelph are already lower than Alectra's and have been for quite some time. An official from Alectra stated that rates could go down by \$3.00 per month, but that won't happen until 2029. This savings is not worth giving up a 250 million dollar asset and local control to achieve.

If Guelph Hydro merges with Alectra it will be a minor stakeholder with only 4.63% of the shares in the company and 1 person on the 14 member board of directors. It will have virtually no say in matters affecting Guelph citizens and customers. There will also be an estimated 30 to 60 jobs lost to the city.

The negotiation process between Guelph and Alectra officials was both rushed and very secretive. There was strong opposition to the merger in newspapers, online media and the city website called Energizing Tomorrow . On the evening of the city council vote on the matter, 29 delegations addressed council and 22 of those opposed the merger. Of the remaining 7 speakers who supported the deal 2 were Alectra executives and 2 were politicians from Barrie. A petition against the deal signed by 76 Guelph citizens was also presented. For some unknown reason a majority of council voted to go forward with merger talks.

This merger is not going to be good for Guelph Hydro customers. I feel certain that the level of customer service and response times to attend to power outages and other emergencies will deteriorate.

As far as I know there is no escape clause in this agreement in case things don't work out as promised. Perhaps the application to merge should be turned down, or at least delayed, until all of the details are made available to the citizens and rate payers of Guelph.

Sincerely,

R. W. Telford