

-- Comment date --
2018-07-04

-- Case Number --
EB-2018-0028

-- Name --
Mary Mitchell

-- Phone --

[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --

[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

I am writing to you to express my concern over the proposed rate change by Energy+ Inc.

An insert in my hydro bill tells me that if the change is approved I can expect my hydro bill to increase by \$2.43. While this does not sound like much it applies to the distribution rate which is one out of six lines of charges on my hydro bill. This means that the distribution rate will increase 9.28% which is well above the rate of inflation.

The insert tells me only that Energy+ has applied for a change to the distribution rate. A recent newspaper article about the increase states that if I want to know more I have to go to the OEB website. On that website it states that Energy+ Inc "has also applied to introduce a new standby charge" and that "the proposal to harmonize rates and charges will also result in changes to certain specific service charges" but there is no indication of how much this means to the consumer.

I did go to read more about the application to determine if this means another, obscure increase to the hydro bill. I really believe that consumers should not have to go digging about on a website to find the facts behind these rate increase proposals and that it should be laid out very clearly what is affected and what is not. There are currently more than 50 documents and I should not have to wade through each and every one to find out clear and concise rate change information.

Furthermore, I do not think that harmonizing the rates between Cambridge and North Dumfries customers and Brant County customers is a valid reason for the increase. When Energy+ Inc bought over the Brant County hydro in 2014 it must have known that the distribution rate there was higher. Why do they think it is acceptable to now pass this discrepancy on to Cambridge and North Dumfries customers? This should have been dealt with over the past four years by gradually decreasing the Brant distribution rate as a cost of doing business.