

From: [registrar](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: EB-2018-0242 FW: Letter of Comment
Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 3:16:44 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 3:06 PM
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2019-01-08

-- Case Number --
EB-2018-0242

-- Name --
Herb Wiseman

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

This takeover will ultimately damage residents of Peterborough in several ways.

It will inflate our costs eventually. If Hydro One is paying for this merger out of current cash, that is a sign it has been overcharging its present customers. If it is borrowing the money or issuing bonds to pay for the takeover, those debt service charges will be passed on to current customers.

Current customers in the province who are not subject to the agreement with Peterborough to freeze distribution rates will experience a rate increase to maintain Hydro One's profitability and then, when the agreement NOT to increase rates for the customers in Peterborough expires, we will probably experience a sharp increase to provincial levels to maintain profit levels.

This will in effect transfer money out of the local economy already suffering from plant closings exacerbating our current difficulties.

Furthermore, having been a customer of Hydro One in the past, I am acutely aware that it has a poor service record not only as evaluated by others but also in my personal experience. In the mid-seventies, the predecessor of Hydro One utilized a carcinogenic spray under the distribution wires at my cottage. It was virtually impossible to get that stopped because the corporation was so large. While the distribution has been hived off from the former mother ship, the problem of holding Hydro One environmentally accountable remains. It is easier to hold a locally run operation accountable.

Finally, alleged economies of scale are false in this case. Because it is a monopoly operating with market principles, prices are likely to be higher not lower to satisfy shareholders who will look to maximize their gains. Local initiatives for distributing power efficiently will be stifled by the mother ship driven by the profit motive. Holding

Hydro One accountable for screw-ups will be harder to achieve than when the utility is owned and operated locally.

-- Attachment --