

**From:** [registrar](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Letter of Comment 2018-0242 Hydro One/Peterborough Distribution sale  
**Date:** Monday, January 14, 2019 10:50:23 AM

---

**From:** Brent Wood  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 10:02 AM  
**To:** [consumerrelations@oeb.ca](mailto:consumerrelations@oeb.ca)  
**Subject:** HPE CM: application 2018-0242 Hydro One/Peterborough Distribution sale [CSE: 5R0zMB, TKT: Allxc7]

Dear Ontario Energy Board members:

The application to sell Peterborough Distribution (PDI) to Hydro One is currently before the OEB. As Board members are likely aware, the proposed sale has been a contentious one. The action was largely driven by the former mayor of Peterborough, Daryl Bennett. The proposed sale proved highly unpopular with the citizens of Peterborough, and contributed to Bennett's overwhelming defeat at this fall's municipal election. Polls suggest 90% of Peterborough residents opposed the sale. It appeared to many citizens that Bennett's push to sell PDI was linked to his ambition to build an equally contentious roadway through the center of the city, known as the Parkway. How to fund the expensive Parkway? Cash in on the public asset of PDI.

Bennett and his outdated conception of city-building are now gone and climate change is well underway. The Parkway project is likely to be removed from the city plan. Meanwhile, small independent electricity providers in Germany have been showing that they are better suited to adapt to a sustainable future than big conglomerates, and municipalities are seeking to buy back their electricity operations from corporations. Privatization of public utilities has little upside, as has been demonstrated repeatedly in California. Hydro One in Ontario has a poor track record for efficiency and customer service. Proponents of the partial privatization of Hydro One hoped that the transformation would increase its effectiveness, but the current Ontario government has shown through its political interference that this isn't likely to occur. Regulators in Idaho and Washington have already ruled against the acquisition of Avista Corporation by Hydro One based on the political interference that has already happened. Peterborough residents now have even less reason to trust Hydro One to take over PDI.

Peterborough's public utilities have a long history and local residents take pride in them. PDI has shown itself to be responsive to public concerns on many occasions and to provide reliable service. It's hard to imagine any scenario in which Hydro One could provide the same levels of responsiveness and reliability. As a now-nominally private, profit-oriented corporation, it's equally difficult to imagine a scenario in which it could provide better value for electricity rates to local consumers than PDI already does. Finally, local residents have shown a desire for adapting to the demands of climate change, and local control over PDI

would ensure that their efforts are coordinated with other public efforts.

In sum, there is no compelling case to permit the sale of PDI to Hydro One - politically, economically, or ecologically. We hereby add our names to those who oppose the sale and request that OEB refuse the request in the application.

Sincerely -

Brent Wood and Kristen Addis

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]