

From: [registrar](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter of Comment - EB-2018-0242
Date: Friday, January 18, 2019 1:30:21 PM

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From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 11:37 PM
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2019-01-09

-- Case Number --
EB-2018-0242

-- Name --
R Mantilla

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

I am writing to the board in regards to the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc to Hydro One. I am resident of Peterborough and a PDI ratepayer whom is strongly opposed to the sale of PDI to Hydro One. I am deeply troubled with the process and the terms of the sale.

I have attended all of the public meetings held by Peterborough City Council, PDI, COPHI (City of Peterborough Holdings Inc.) and Hydro One. The process appeared flawed from the beginning. In my opinion, I feel that Peterborough City Council has not done its due diligence in regards to the sale of our public utility, nor have these elected officials listened to their constituents. In my opinion, I feel as if the reason for the sale of PDI was to secure funds for the city coffers and that the process was rushed through to complete the deal before the next municipal election. The whole sale of PDI wreaks of the Agenda 21/2030 tactics.

During the process I spoke directly with and e-mailed all elected members of Peterborough City Council regarding my questions and concerns with the sale of PDI. The responses I received were troubling at best. For the most part councillors were unable to answer the following questions:

1. Prior to the decision to sell PDI, did PDI, City Staff and City Council research the negative impact of the privatization of public utilities experienced by other communities both locally, nationally and globally who have chosen to privatize their public utilities?
2. Did Council, City Staff and PDI consult other municipalities both locally, nationally and globally who chose to sell their public utilities, to determine how much rates increased after the negotiated term for reduced rates had expired?

3. If other municipalities were consulted, did the research reveal that rates skyrocketed once the negotiated term for reduced rates expired?
4. Did Council, City Staff and PDI research customer satisfaction rates with the new private sector owner following the sale of a community's public utilities to the private sector?
5. Was customer satisfaction with the new utility company positive or negative?
6. Did PDI, City Staff and City Council thru their due diligence, research private sector ownership which lead to undesirable outcomes?
7. Prior to voting to sell PDI, did PDI, City Staff and City Council research the global reclaiming or remunicipalization of once public utility services?
For example, the reclaiming/remunicipalization of Germany's 284 energy sector utility companies.
8. Is there a buyback clause in the terms of sale of PDI to Hydro One?
9. Would you ever consider "buying back PDI" and making it a public utility in the future, should it be possible?

I found it disturbing that not one councillor was able to respond whether or not there was a buyback clause in the terms of sale, should the future outcomes of the sale not prove favourable. Should councillors voting on the sale of the utility not know if such a clause was included? Should they not have ensured that one was included in the sale terms? The one response that I did receive regarding the buyback clause was from the mayor. He stated that there was no buyback clause included in the terms of the sale. If the mayor was privy to this information, why was council not also aware of this?

The fact that it appears our elected officials did not fulfill their due diligence, by conducting their own research on such a contentious matter, concerns me. Based on the answers (or lack of answers) I received, it appears that these elected officials did not research:

- The negative effects of the privatization of public utilities experienced by other communities both locally, nationally and globally.
- Rate increases after the negotiated term for reduced rates has expired.
- Customer satisfaction rates with the new private sector owner.
- Private sector ownership which lead to undesirable outcomes and lessons learned from communities who have sold their public utilities to the private sector.
- The global reclaiming or remunicipalization of once public utility services. For example, the reclaiming/remunicipalization of Germany's 284 energy sector utility companies.

Other items of concern regarding the sale of PDI include:

- Hydro One backing out of deal to buy PDI, no explanation was given as to why deal fell through.
- PDI and Hydro One re-negotiate sale of PDI, terms of deal not publicized to community or council.
- Other options to sale of PDI not explored in depth.
- Consultation with community not valued.
- Community members denied a referendum on sale of PDI.
- Polls conducted suggest that 90% of community polled not in favour of sale of PDI, yet elected officials vote to sell.

How can the citizens of Peterborough have any trust in their elected officials, if they not willing to listen to the 90 percent of polled constituents whom adamantly oppose the sale of PDI to Hydro One?

Research proves that customers of privately owned utilities have experienced higher energy costs, poor customer service, decreased electricity reliability and lack of system upgrades as a result of the private sector's focus on profits to satisfy shareholders expectations.

The sale of PDI will cause great hardship to both citizens and business in the community. Peterborough is unique in

that we have a large population of senior citizens, students and marginalized citizens who are on a fixed income and will not be able to afford the future increases once the rate freeze has expired. Furthermore, Hydro One has a poor and unacceptable track record when it comes to electricity reliability, customer service and billing errors. In Peterborough, we are fortunate to have a reliable, customer service oriented, public utility that offers local employment and is a valued community partner.

The sale of PDI to Hydro One will impact every member of this community and their ability provide for their families and support local business. It is for these reasons that I respectfully request that you deny Hydro One's application to purchase PDI.

Sincerely,

R. Mantilla

-- Attachment --