

From: S G [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 2:06 PM
To: ConsumerRelations@ontarioenergyboard.ca
Subject: Seasonal Residence Rate Increase

I am a seasonal residence cottage owner in Northern Ontario. Having received notice of the consideration of removing the classification of seasonal residence, I wish to make some comments.

Most seasonal residents like myself use their cottage for a short time each year which may be a few months or a few weeks as in my case but we pay electric bills for the entire year. My usage is very low and for a short time but the bills come all year round.

Some seasonal residents could see their electric costs rise by up to 129% including myself, according to Hydro One. It is understandable that in low density areas the costs per customer are higher to install and maintain infrastructure. But the majority of that infrastructure is in place and has been in place for decades. Although I only reside at my cottage in summer months, the only installation and maintenance by Hydro One I have seen or heard about in over 30 years in my area was the replacement of a single broken telephone pole, the installation of a digital meter and a single incidence of extending the electric line to other other customers.

I would also like to point out that many cottage owners are older retired people on a limited income like myself. I recognize that inflation is a fact of life but to place the burden of increases of the magnitude being considered on this group of seasonal residents does not seem to be fairly balanced and imposing a higher percent of cost increase on this group of customers that use that service for a very small percentage of the year is hard to justify from this customers point of view.

The "Ontario Energy Board Modernization Review Panel FINAL REPORT | OCTOBER 2018 " states the following MANDATE of the OEB.

"The OEB's historical core function is economic regulation, including CONSUMER PRICE PROTECTION. "

How is it possible that you are protecting the consumer when a price increase of up to 129% could affect thousands of consumers in the category of Seasonal Residence.

This excessive percentage increase in electrical prices targeted at a single group of customers is neither fair nor acceptable. Furthermore it is not only NOT in line with the OEB mandate of consumer price protection but it appears to be a dereliction of duty.

Dissatisfied customer.

