

From: [BoardSec](#)
To: [Shelly-Anne Connell](#)
Subject: FW: EB-2018-0270
Date: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:15:48 AM
Attachments: [EB-2018-0270.zip](#)

From: Maurice and Tillie McMillan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:09 AM
To: BoardSec <BoardSec@oeb.ca>; David Martinello <David.Martinello@oeb.ca>; tdoherty@oesc-cseo.org; Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Subject: EB-2018-0270

Attn: Ms. Walli, Board Secretary OEB

I have been a lifelong advocate of public power and have been fighting privatization in the Province of Ontario for more than 20 years. As an Orillia city councillor from 2006 to 2010, I fought against the ongoing destruction of Ontario Hydro and the resulting loss of the affordable power that had benefitted both business and residential consumers for generations.

I never accepted the government's line that competition would drive the price of power down, knowing full well the opposite would happen as assets such as the hydro-electric peaking plants on the Mississagi River fell into private hands.

I opposed the creation of the for-profit Orillia Power Corporation and objected to many of their initiatives such as the Smart Meter, which in its original pay-as-you go format would have automatically disconnected individuals and families of limited means.

I exposed the poor timing of Orillia Power's

Conservation Week, where customers were encouraged to reduce their electricity use in May of all times when rivers were running high and clean and cheap water power was abundant. Over the years I have suspected that the Orillia Power Company wields inordinate influence over decisions made at Queen's Park – decisions that have hurt Ontario's consumers as a whole while enriching Orillia.

In 2002 when Conservative Finance Minister, Ernie Eves, was rocked by the disastrous switch to market-based hydro pricing, he considered returning local utilities to a not-for-profit model. Immediately the Orillia Power Company and local city council, counting on big profits from power generation, denounced the idea. Eves backed off and any return to non-profit power was blocked. Now it appears Orillia is calling the shots again. The multi-million-dollar technology hub that Hydro One proposes building in Orillia will transfer control and profit to Orillia from Queen's Park at the expense of all energy consumers in the province. Orillia will be running all of Ontario for its own financial benefit.

It should be noted that the Orillia utility did not oppose the sale of Hydro One on the New York Stock Exchange. Nor did it oppose the sale of the hydro-electric peaking plants near Sault Ste. Marie to a private corporation. Orillia, which owns three water power plants, also lobbied for the Heritage Contract, which guarantees

minimum prices for water power, well above the not-for-profit levels. Clearly they are not interested in producing power at the lowest cost but rather seeking the highest cost they can achieve. Again it is the consumer and industry who lose as prices rise.

The elimination of the seasonal rate class means 80,000 low power users will pay \$1,000 more annually. This money squeezed out of rural Ontario could be going to pay for the \$200 - \$300-million technology hub planned for Orillia. Note: Orillia Power did not notify consumers of Article 409 in the Canada/US Free Trade Agreement which lock Canadian power producers into supplying power to the US at volumes established over a three-year period even in times of shortfall. The agreement fails to protect the water rights of generating stations in the Great Lakes basin from American exploitation in the future.

Please find attached the documentation.

Sincerely,

Maurice McMillan