

7 Nov 2019

Dear Members of the OEB: Consumer Relations

Recently I received notice from Hydro One that I was identified as a seasonal rate class customer and that this classification was requested to be eliminated by the OEB.

Hydro One indicates that such a decision by the OEB could see my bill increase by about 129% over the next several years, or decrease somewhat, depending upon a number of seasonal user criteria.

However, Hydro One assures me that they have proposed an alternate plan to the OEB, which would "protect seasonal customers from a steep bill increase".

Despite scouring the many pages of Hydro One's proposal I'm still not sure how I would be impacted, or which classification I would fall under - the one which gets the cost increase or the decrease.

I am not confident that Hydro One "has my back" as they indicate, since it appears they propose to keep the seasonal rate.

I have been with Hydro One since the mid 1990s. I own a small 720 sq. ft log cabin in Londesborough Ontario, where I spend three seasons a year. This is a town about 100 km north of London, Ontario.

As a senior I have been keeping this little country place running on a shoestring for the last 20 years, usually from early April until the beginning of November. I limit my hydro usage considerably, and in the last six months consumed about 494 Kwh. at a cost of \$627. The delivery charges of approximately \$100/m continue all year even when usage is 0 Kwh. I considered disconnecting my service during my absence,

but the reconnection charge of \$300 quoted by Hydro One some years ago was a deterrent.

An increase in the cost of electricity would have a huge impact on my ability to keep my property. There is no way my budget could handle an increase which might double the cost. I would be forced to sell the place.

I have done many of the renovations at the property over the years, after the main building was destroyed by fire in 1998. This small outbuilding is all I have left, and it provides me with much pleasure, as well as keeping me fit and healthy doing the gardening and maintenance. I have kept the quantity and use of appliances to a minimum, in order to conserve energy.

Seasonal users have been penalized over the years with higher rates than those in the residential class, despite low usage. I hope that the proposed Hydro One plan for seasonal rate changes will be considered by the OEB in the light of users like me who may suffer greatly increased costs.

I feel that this "seasonal" classification should be eliminated as outlined by the OEB, and that we pay residential rates similar to other users in the area.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.