



From: Stuart McIntosh [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:20 PM
To: ConsumerRelations@ontarioenergyboard.ca <PublicInformation@oeb.ca>
Subject: OEB decision to eliminate Hydro One Seasonal Rate: Case EB-2020-0246

OEB decision to eliminate Hydro One Seasonal Rate: **Case EB-2020-0246**

To whom it may concern,

My multi-generational family has had the pleasure of owning and enjoying a seasonal/summer cottage just south of Sudbury since 1972.

Recently, we were shocked to learn of the unfavourable & unfair OEB decision to eliminate the Hydro One Seasonal Rate, which would directly & negatively impact the billing rates for Seasonal Property Owners such as ourselves.

Our property is located in an R2 Low Density Zone, and our collective family usage consistently falls within the Lowest Usage Category (Under 50kWh), given that we use our cottage for a total of two months every summer. Our place has no luxuries such as air-conditioning, or TV; just basic electrical needs for lighting, refrigeration, cooking, and running the water system, and we mindfully observe the On Peak & Off Peak Usage Schedule. At the end of the Labour Day weekend, we completely shut off our main hydro panel when we close up for the season, to prevent any unintended power usage during the remaining 10 months of the year, when the cottage is not in use.

For 2020, the sum of our annual hydro usage for our cottage was \$550.00, comprised of two months of moderate use, and the balance for basic connection to the grid (Delivery). In comparison, our annual hydro bill for our permanent residence in Southern Ontario was \$650.00, which included air-conditioner use. With this in mind, it is difficult for us to agree with the OEB statement that, "...some Seasonal Customers are paying less than they should be, and others are paying more than they should be." In our opinion, the amount a Customer pays should be directly proportionate to their usage. Based on my understanding of the updated Hydro One Report provided to the OEB in October 2020, it seems that Customers located in R2 Zones, and the Low Usage Category (under 50kWh) will be facing an increase of more than 100% as a result of this decision to eliminate the Seasonal Rate. This would mean that we will be paying approximately \$1400 for the same amount of annual usage for our cottage (twice the amount we pay for our home), which is completely unreasonable & unjustifiable.

This seemingly unilateral decision by OEB essentially jeopardizes our ability to continue to be able to afford our family cottage, and may actually result in being forced to sell a place we cherish - what an absolutely heartbreaking thought.

We can understand that the current rates paid by Seasonal Property Owners may not be sufficient enough to meet the costs required to deliver the hydro service. Please note that we would certainly be willing to accept a more reasonable rate increase (10% for instance), to help balance the scales.

However, we cannot understand how OEB can in good conscience, rationalize increasing our rates by more than 100%. How in any way is it fair that Customers with the least amount of annual usage should bear the brunt of these increases, while Customers in High Density Zones will benefit from significant reductions to their current rates?

We are appealing to OEB to reconsider this unreasonable decision, and work with Hydro One to find a more equitable method of redistributing the costs amongst the User Categories. There is no reason that we should be penalized so heavily for owning a Seasonal Property in an R2 Low Density Zone. Please be aware the enormous impact OEB's decision will have on the Seasonal Customer base.

Thank-you for your consideration with this matter, and we are hoping for a resolution that will be more favourable for all parties involved.