

From: [registrar](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: FW: Letter of Comment - EB-2020-0246
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 2:43:27 PM

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 8:35 PM
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2021-02-19

-- Case Number --
EB-2020-0246

-- Name --
Gordon & Karen Ryckman

-- Phone --
416-622-0635

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --
Letter of Comment – EB-2020-0246

We were shocked to read Hydro One's recent letter proposing the elimination of their Seasonal Customer Rate Class.

As a cottage owner presently served by Hydro One, it appears, if we understand the proposal correctly, that the cost of electricity to our cottage, and to many others like us, will more than double. This just does not seem fair or appropriate. We hope that the OEB will take a broader and more informed approach compared to the very narrow approach taken by Hydro One.

Over many years, rural electrification has been an important Provincial initiative that has resulted in impressive economic benefits and enhanced quality of life wherever and whenever it has occurred. We believe this type of thinking and policy should continue. We are aware that electricity distributors like Hydro One no longer have a mandate or responsibility to look beyond their shareholders needs to the broader interests of the people of Ontario and the best interests of the Province itself, but it certainly should be addressed by someone and we hope the OEB shares our view.

The local electrical substation and its associated distribution feeders in the area of our cottage serve a wide variety of customers including residential, farm, small business, institutional, and municipal, as well as some seasonal cottages. In our case we only use moderate amounts of electricity and only for the 6 or 7 warmer months of the year yet we still pay Hydro One's delivery charges for the full 12 months of the year. But that's another story that we can't really do much about.

We generally disagree with Hydro One's views concerning the difficulties and associated costs they attribute to serving seasonal customers and, therefore, their need to obtain more money from this particular class of customer. It would be interesting to consider a scenario where all seasonal customers (including their associated problems/costs and their associated

revenues) were eliminated. I think you would find that Hydro One's bottom line would be negatively, not positively, impacted. Once electricity is provided in an area, the more customers the distributor can connect the

better. With a distribution feeder already running along the road adjacent to our cottage it was logical for us to consider being connected and we are pretty sure that the money we have paid over the years has more than compensated Hydro One for any additional costs it has suffered as a result of having us as a customer.

We can understand that there may be some difficult situations that may exist with some seasonal customers. These are perhaps, at least in part, due to past connection policies and, as such, should be dealt with as a change to such connection policies rather than as a rates issue. By trying to deal with these existing customers by way of huge rate increases it would be like a landlord advertising an apartment for rent at \$1500 per month then when the tenant has moved in and become nicely settled the landlord raises the rent to \$3000 per month. Just not acceptable!

-- Attachment --