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Subject: Letter of Comment - EB-2020-0246

From: Greg Hammond [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:22 PM
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>; ConsumerRelations@ontarioenergyboard.ca
<PublicInformation@oeb.ca>
Subject: comment on EB-2020-0246

To OEB

I have a comment on the EB-2020-0246. Our family is opposed to the elimination of the seasonal rates for hydro, with the following observations.

Having read some of the background to this proposal, it is clear that this proposal is grossly unfair. From the letter of Feb 18, 2020, as a relatively low volume user (< 150 kWh)) of power at a seasonal only cottage that we have owned for over 30 years, from the table on page 2 of the letter of Feb 18, our rates would increase by over 100%, when there is no increase in power use (or service) likely. On the other hand, individuals using much more power (>1000 kWh) would have a much lower rate of increase (28%). This is counter to all perspectives on fairness and economics. Where else in society do we have a situation where high volume users of a consumption service pay less? It doesn't happen with food, clothing, entertainment or fuel. It is also counter to principles for encouragement to conserve power. It is especially galling to be charged for service when it is not used in winter months, by elimination of the seasonal rates.

Also, in the background document there appears to have been a flaw in the methodology. It is clearly stated that two variables that affect cost were being changed, but were not considered together. This is flawed planning and needs to be

corrected and effects mitigated. Here is the quote in the document at the beginning of the file with the initial document by Henry Andre, "Hydro One Report on Elimination of Seasonal Class EB 2016 -0315."

Page 16/17 - "Since the policy regarding the move to all-fixed rates for residential customers came out after the Board's Decision in Hydro One's EB-2013-0416 proceeding, **the bill impacts on customers moving to all-fixed rates were not explored in the pre-filed evidence, interrogatories or oral hearing during the proceeding. In particular, the combined impact of eliminating the Seasonal Class and moving to all-fixed rates was not evaluated.**

Also, it is not clear what overall financial targets have been set and their rationale? What problems are these proposed changes designed to fix? The profits for Ontario Hydro for the third quarter of 2020 were \$281 million (vs \$241 million in the same period last year).

It is stated that this proposal will have a large negative impact on 78,000 individual properties, which represents a large population.

Please consider improving the fairness of any appropriate cost increases, by distribution over the entire group.

Thank you,

Greg Hammond