

**From:** [seasonalrateclass](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CM: Letter of Comment - EB-2020-0246  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 12:22:44 PM

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From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:37 AM  
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>  
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --  
2021-03-03

-- Case Number --  
EB-2020-0246

-- Name --  
James Lowe

-- Phone --  
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --  
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

My experience with responding to requests for comment regarding matters of public policy is one of being ignored, dismissed, and sometimes outright ridiculed. But, comments are often the only way the powers-that-be allow ordinary citizens to interact with the government in order for those governing to present an illusion of engagement. With these low expectations in mind, these are my comments regarding case EB-2020-0246.

First, I should mention that the webpages about submitting commentary, being an intervenor, and the detailing of the hearing are highly bureaucratic.

It's clear they have been developed by and for lawyers, as well as professional lobbying groups, and not for ordinary citizens, who are the people most affected by the coming changes. I can only assume that was deliberate. In the future you should consider adopting plain English in your communications.

Some history. My cottage has been in our family for 50 years; I helped my father clear the land and build it. It is a true cottage, and not a suburban-stye home in the bush. It has never served as a full-time residence, but only as a summer retreat. It's a part of our family. Back in the early '70s there was no hydro in the area. My father allowed Ontario Hydro to put in a pole and electrical equipment on his property to make it easy and economical for Ontario Hydro to extend their service north of our place. At the time Ontario Hydro's alternatives were far more costly and harder to implement. Ontario Hydro benefited from my father's generosity and he made it much easier for people to get electricity.

Like our family, many others are long term cottage owners, and our places have far more meaning than simply numbers on a Hydro spreadsheet. And now decades of Hydro mismanagement is being dumped on citizens. I did manage to read at your website about the long and convoluted bureaucratic processes Hydro has been using to justify the huge rate increases, in order to show some sort of technocratic justification for its actions. However, I saw no consideration of impact on families.

It's clear that Hydro is going ahead with huge rate increases, so there isn't anything an ordinary citizen can do about that. However, I recommend that the switch to this new property classification scheme (seasonal to R2) only go into affect on individual properties when the properties change owners. This way the blow is lessened on current owners, especially long term owners. As we know, these days cottages are usually bought by the winners in the world of elite global capitalism. However, it wasn't like that in years gone-by. Cottage property was something that could be bought by middle class families with solid jobs like firefighters, police, nurses, teachers, small business owners, retirees, book-keepers, garbagemen, and many others. Many long term owners continue to be solid middle class citizens, but aren't in the ranks of the global elite, so unlike those elites, these sky-high rate increases pose a serious problem. It's unfortunate that Hydro is planning to destroy family legacies and continue the long assault on the middle class as part of its efforts to fix its decades long mismanagement.

-- Attachment --