

From: [seasonalrateclass](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Letter of Comment - EB-2020-0246
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Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2021-03-04

-- Case Number --
EB-2020-0246

-- Name --
Marie-Anne Hall

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --
Subject: OEB Hearing EB-2020-0246

Greetings

I am one of the 78000 seasonal customers who will move to R2 Low Density Residential Class and who will see an approximate 111% increase to my total electricity bill when the Seasonal Class is eliminated and the All-Fixed Rate is implemented.

This is a \$60 per month increase to customers like myself, whereas neighbours who are permanent residents see little change and cottagers in more populated areas see a decrease in costs.

This exorbitant increase will definitely negatively impact my ability to maintain a seasonal residence.

Comments:

1.As per Hydro One Report [1], I will be excluded from the R2 Class RRRP and DRP subsidies. As a low consumption customer, that means I will pay approx. \$120 per month (all-fixed rate) for the privilege of having access to electricity; neighbours who are permanent residents will have the same access at a much cheaper rate. Remember that we seasonal cottagers are also permanent resident ratepayers whose costs help provide this subsidy. Hardly seems fair and equitable ...

2.The proposed all-fixed rate changes also appear to be more cost effective overall, if I increase my monthly kWh consumption. Electricity generators and provincial/federal governments encourage participation in energy conservation (with rebates subsidized by taxpayers). Guess there's no point in conserving energy from my perspective ...

3.I understand low density customers require more infrastructure for access to grid, however, I don't believe putting the increased burden solely on residential customers (specifically mainly northern/remote customers) is appropriate. There are other means of sharing the increasing energy distribution costs to Ontarians (taxing wind generation industry, selling electricity to USA at negative rates, etc.) which are being ignored. The Americanization of Ontario's energy supply/distribution system is once again shifting the cost to the backs of already energy poor Class B ratepayers who are also subsidizing Class A ratepayers.

Considerations:

1.I ask that a multi year phase in period be applied to this increase. The OEB's unilateral decision to significantly increase my annual electricity costs will result in a very negative impact to me as I am on a fixed income. Adjusting the cost incrementally will help protect me from having a huge increase at one time and allow me time to adjust my finances accordingly.

Hydro One Report [1], Section 4.3 Mitigation of Bill Impacts, "Option 1:

Use Credit Based Approach to Mitigate Impacts" seems the most viable for my situation. This appears to indicate the mitigation of costs over a multi-year period would essentially be shared by both residential and non residential rate classes.

2.I ask that the billing frequency not be changed during the multi year phase-in. This also includes the continuance of the ability to provide meter "self-readings". This option is necessary when actual meter readings are annual and the quarterly estimated readings can result in grossly overestimating actual electricity consumption. Continuance of paper billing is also a required option as reliable internet access is still not available for all Ontario residents.

Hydro One Report [1], Section 6.3 Summary of Billing and Meter Reading Frequency Options and Recommendations, "Option C: Adopt Usage Based Levels" appears to be the best suited for low consumption consumers like myself. It allows for variable levels of consumption, a variety of reading options and a variety of billing options which minimize impact of those customers most affected.

My closing thoughts :

The privatization and deregulation of Ontario Hydro in the late 1990s has led residential customers down an increasingly expensive path. The introduction of 'energy conscious' exceedingly expensive suppliers like wind and solar have added to the increased cost. And yet, even with the higher consumption cost to residential users, the distribution infrastructure was allowed to deteriorate to such a point that these same Class B ratepayers must once again carry the cost.

This will eventually force northern/rural cottage customers to find alternate and more affordable energy sources resulting in further increases to Ontario electricity consumers.

Sadly, it seems like residential class customers and specifically northern/rural cottagers are not part of the "me" in the OEB's goal to "provide me with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost".

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns and opinion.

Marie-Anne Hall

[1] Hydro One Report on Elimination of the Seasonal Class; Oct15, 2020 Update; EB-2016-0315.