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From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>

Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 4:57 PM

To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>

Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --

2021-03-07

-- Case Number --

EB-2020-0246

-- Name --

Martha Gagnon

-- Phone --



-- Company --

-- Address --

Espanola

-- Comments --

As a pensioner living on a fixed income I read with dismay the letter regarding Hydro One's plan to eliminate the seasonal rate class (EB-2020-0246). This plan places me in a Residential Low Density (R2) Class and I would see a 100% increase in the distribution rate charged to me. This is very unfair. My income is fixed and an increase of 100% is unbearable.

As a seasonal dweller it has always been difficult to pay the distribution charges for the months the camp isn't used (9 months). During those months, zero kWh of electricity are used, yet I am still forced to pay the distribution charges which add up to a significant amount of money. With these proposed changes the distribution rates will double; this hardly seems fair!

This plan especially penalizes seasonal dwellings in low density areas like Northern Ontario. It seems unfair that these areas will have to pay so much more than those in more densely populated areas.

As a population we have been encouraged to conserve energy. However, this plan penalizes people who use less electricity. The lower the monthly consumption of electricity, the greater the distribution rates. For example, a customer using 50 kWh per month will face a 100% increase in distribution rates. Where as a customer using 1000 kWh will only see an increase of 28% in his or her distribution rate.

As a seasonal customer I have paid to have electricity connected to my camp.

Although I am in a low density area the electricity lines are established and just need to be maintained. Surely this does not warrant a 100% increase in distribution rates.

I feel that the increase in rates in this proposal are excessive and unfairly target people in Northern Ontario and other low density areas. The proposed changes are clearly designed to ensure everyone pays the maximum amount even though their electricity use may be minimal.

I was not prepared for rate increases of this magnitude and feel they will face an unfair financial burden on many people.

