



March 8, 2021

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319,
2300 Young Street.
27th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E4

Attention Registrar:
Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Reference # EB-2020-0246
EB-2019-0234
EB-2016-0315

Letter of Comment

Re: Ontario Energy Board Hearing to consider the next steps in eliminating Hydro One Network INC. Seasonal Rate Class "EB-2020-0246"

RE: [REDACTED]
Hydro One Acct # [REDACTED]

Information sent to me by Hydro One Networks, which I received on February 26, 2021, and to which I was required to respond by March 15, 2021 in order to be heard, indicates it is purposed by the O.E.B. that the seasonal property rate classification for the delivery of electricity will be eliminated by the O.E.B. According to this report it is anticipated that the above property will be moved into one of the residential low density (R2) class. "The O.E.B has yet to decide whether this change will take effect on January 1, 2022 or on a later date."

Information concerning this property is as follows:

The house on this property is a small, two-bedroom, fifty-year-old bungalow style home, situated on a quiet gravel road, with no windmill and situated in a farm community. It was inhabited in earlier years by my parents. After my father died in 1981 with a Malignant Brain Tumour, my mother continued to live there for many years. Due to declining health, she moved into a long-term care facility where she eventually died with Pneumonia at the age of 91 years. This property has become mine, and it was a long-term goal (as the house has fallen into a state

of disrepair having been sitting empty for many years) to restore it to a level where it could be comfortably lived in. After a roof was installed, new under hang and eaves troughing followed. Two new outside doors and two new windows were installed. As money becomes available it was the plan to replace more windows, replace wall board paneling for drywall, upgrade the water and septic system, as well as new insulation. These projects take time and money. The yard has been maintained by us with the much-appreciated assistance of a wonderful brother who lives nearby. All this is being done by people in 70-80-year-old age group.

1. These efforts have been delayed by the illness and passing of my mother.
2. Work was again put on hold when my husband, now 80 years old, developed Flesh Eating Disease (Necrotising Fasciitis) in his left leg requiring six week hospitalization (3 debriding surgeries, followed by 3 skin grafts) with seven weeks of nurses coming into our home daily. Physiotherapy was then required. Though recovery was slow, he was able to keep his now disfigured leg which needs care for lost circulation.
3. Further delays occurred when my husband's older brother (a bachelor) became ill and lost his driver's licence. We were needed to take him to Doctor, Dental, Eye Glass, Diabetic foot care appointments etc. We did his cleaning, grocery shopping, laundry, and supervised his medication. Due to declining mental and physical health he was admitted to hospital and died in I.C.U. of Chatham Kent Health Alliance. Due to his passing several details had to be attended to including, emptying his apartment, funeral arrangements, and income tax issues to name a few.

As you may see it has been difficult to proceed with our plans for this Farm House so that it could be someone's home.

In the information we received from Hydro One, it was brought to our attention that we used 0.00 kwh in the year 2020. There is a pandemic (Covid 19) going on throughout the world. In the area of Windsor / Essex County which takes in the Town of LaSalle where we live, we are considered one of Ontario's "Hot Spots". This virus has had a devastating effect on Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, and Long-Term Care facilities in our area resulting in many deaths among the elderly. Many infections are in the Agri farm sector with resulting deaths. Workers are brought in from other countries, in large numbers, to work in the green houses and fields where food products are grown. Congregate living facilitated the spread of Covid 19, presenting a challenge to public health as to how to deal with this. At present, an outbreak among the poor and homeless are presenting another challenge to public health officials as well organizations such as Street Help, The Salvation Army, and the Downtown Mission that struggle to help them. Outbreaks have occurred in some units in the hospitals. The Health Care System has been stretched to the limit and there is a worry that it could become overwhelmed. Frontline workers are exhausted and in dealing with acutely ill patients, some of whom die in spite of their efforts, puts a strain on their mental and physical health. The question of a third wave with new variants and their impact are looming. Grandparents have been unable to see their Children and Grandchildren, not even at Christmas. Schools have been closed intermittently with outbreaks in some, making online learning another challenge for teachers, parents, and students. Some parents fear for the health of their children. Some teachers are

afraid of contracting Covid and are faced with Online learning, to find new ways to reach their students. Premier Ford has repeatedly told the people of Ontario to “Stay At HOME!” Heavy fines have been levied here to those who chose to ignore the directives. Many businesses have closed, some never to reopen. Unemployment is high. A quotation from Ann Jarvis column of the Windsor Star from March 3, 2021 states “Many have probably been holed up in their homes for the last year isolating to protect themselves. For some of them, this was probably their first outing.” This is in relation to Vaccination for 80-year old’s and over. My husband is 80 years old and yet to receive his vaccine. I am 79 years old.

I hope that I have been able to explain why 0.00 KWH of electricity was registered for the year 2020. My husband and I are in a High Mortality Rate for Covid 19, going out only for Doctor, Dental, Pharmacy, and Groceries, and when we do, we are tense and fearful. We would be breaking the law to travel from one area to another when our area has been declared to be in the RED, GREY, and lockdown zone.

It would appear, if I am correct the changes proposed by the O.E.B., would cause me to be paying more than four times the amount (current \$347.86 for the year) than was paid for delivery charges in the year 2020 for 0.00 KWH of electricity. By receiving a bill from Hydro One once every three months that should help to cut down on electricity costs for Hydro One. Full time residents on the 9th Line where this house is situated would naturally have higher usage. I feel that the delivery rate that has been suggested, because I don’t use “enough” hydro is punitive and exorbitant. Some time ago, discussions were being held on how to “economize the use of electricity.” It seems to me, that since we are already paying these charges at our primary residence on a full-time basis, we are already contributing to the delivery cause.

We recognize that Green Energy is important and the construction of a new line between Chatham and Windsor will be helpful to some.

Given the present state of the house in question, and as there is no income from it, and the inability to have anyone live there on a full-time basis, and having discussed this with family and friends the option of abandoning our plan to make improvements and tear down the existing house is “on the table.” Doing so for us, it would mean less stress, no maintenance or care, no insurance, no grass cutting or weeding, no taxes to pay on the house, and no electricity to pay. It is unfortunate because it could have been so much more.

It is highly unlikely, in my opinion, the highly salaried executives that hold office at the O.E.B. can relate, in any way to my situation or of those like me, that would be negatively impacted by these changes that have been proposed by them.

Given the present State of the Province during the Pandemic, I question the timing of this venture.

A Hydro One representative informed me; they are not in favour of these changes.

These changes would negatively impact me and those like me. I respectfully request that you would reconsider this action.

Please Reconsider!

Sincerely,
Beatrice Ross

Copied to Mr. Rick Nicholls MPP Chatham - Kent