

[REDACTED]

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 2:00 PM

To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>

Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --

2021-03-14

-- Case Number --

EB-2020-0246

-- Name --

Joel Godecki

-- Phone --

[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --

[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

I am recently retired and I am extremely concerned with eliminating Seasonal Rate Class to a fixed hydro rate according to population density. I have attached a brief letter of my concerns, and have suggested a proposal for a "Grandfather Clause" as a reasonable solution to this situation for Hydro One to consider. Thank you.

-- Attachment --

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

My name is Joel Godecki, I am recently retired, and I am extremely concerned with eliminating Seasonal Rate Class EB-2020-0246 to a fixed hydro rate according to population density.

This is the context of my situation. My parents purchased property on Squaw Bay in 1956, located on [REDACTED] where they built a 800 square foot family cottage which I purchased from them in 1993. It was connected to Ontario Hydro in the 1970's. It is located 60 km east of Thunder Bay and has easy access throughout the year for any maintenance concerns. A majority of the travel to the cottage is on a divided Trans-Canada Hwy, and Hwy 587 into Sleeping Giant Provincial park. In Northwestern Ontario we have a very short summer season consisting of June, July, and August. The cottage is only open for the summer because **it is not winterized**. It truly is a seasonal residence.

Currently, I pay \$65.00 equal billing each month for the entire year. We use an average amount of 145 kwh per month, which is less than 5 kwh per day, which is basically nothing. 60% of my yearly Hydro One bills we use 0 kwh. This proposed fixed amount will increase my bill to approximately \$125.00 each month which does not include the price of electricity. This would be an increase of 93% just to have the luxury of Hydro One. I can assure you my pension is not increasing this year by 93%. I pay \$88.00 per month for Synergy North Hydro at my permanent house with electricity 24/7 for 365 days. Simply, I would be paying significantly more for hydro at the closed cottage than my permanent residence.

I recall my father being upset with Ontario Hydro back in the 70s because he was paying the same amount of money as the commercial fisherman, who was a permanent resident living on the same road all year round. Those payments went on for years. Ontario Hydro / Hydro One finally created a seasonal residence rate, then within the last decade Smart Meters were installed, and now it has come full circle again. Last fall I spent a week trying to do a bathroom update at the cottage, the power went off for 36 hours, because a tree fell on a crown landline. It took Hydro One 36 hours to restore power. As a seasonal resident, I would never know about this power outage because I would not have been back to the cottage for another 7 months. However, the permanent resident at the end of the road technically can call in a fallen tree once a week, yet I have to pay for an astronomical increase in my bill to serve the permanent resident.

I oppose Hydro One's proposed plan, I would like to offer a reasonable solution to this situation which invokes a Grandfather Clause.

Proposed Grandfather Clause

Example:

Godecki = Valued customer Godecki has paid for Ontario Hydro / Hydro One for **51 years**

Tony & Nina Godecki	Ontario Hydro (Hydro One) since the 1970s (23+ yrs)
Joel Godecki	Hydro One since 1993 (28 yrs)

Grandfather Clause

If you owned your cottage for:

25 years - locked in 2021 Seasonal Status Quo \$50 flat rate, no Low Density charge + Usage
20 years 20% of Low Density fee + Usage
15 years 40% of Low Density fee + Usage
10 years 60% of Low Density fee + Usage
5 years or less - 2022 Elimination of the Seasonal Class Rate

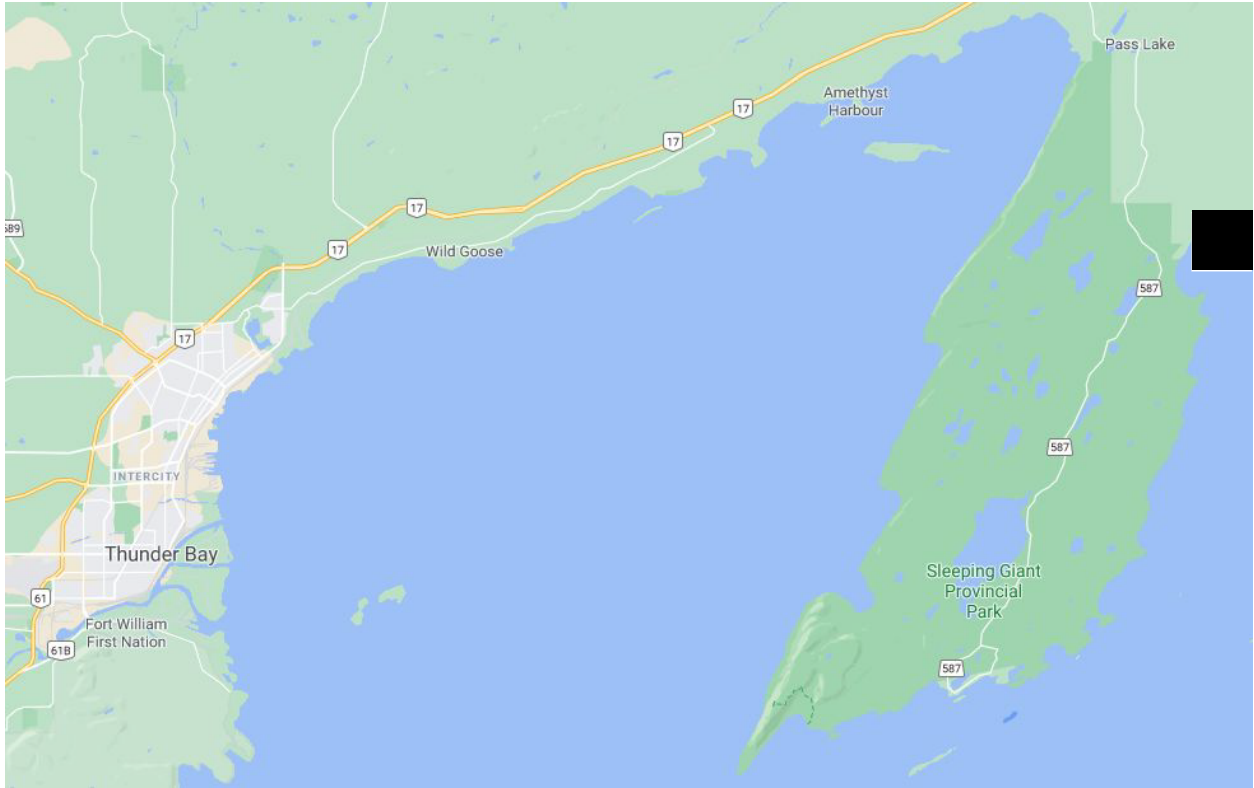
In another 10 - 15 years, the few seasonal residential customers who have owned their cottages for 25 years, will have sold them, died, or left it to their families. Once the deed is transferred, or sold, the new owner starts from 2022 Elimination of Seasonal Class Rate.

Additional considerations:

- 1) Bury the hydro lines to reduce continual maintenance costs in low density areas

Hydro One could consider a Pilot Project of installing underground cables for a 3 km extension from the Sleeping Giant Provincial Park boundary to the end of Ronquist Road. This project could involve approximately 50 possible customers, and half the entire peninsula would not require regular maintenance calls for power outages.

- 2) Offering customers a reasonable rate to bury lines on their own property. Those who do not take this opportunity would be responsible for any maintenance done on their property.
- 3) Hydro One's proposal may result in the loss of valued customers, especially seasonal residence, to other forms of more affordable energy such as solar power and/or propane, and natural gas.



This diagram illustrates the location of my seasonal residence on the far right with a pin. Notice the dark green is Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. Where Hwy 587 enters the park there are no hydro poles for 20 km, because the cable to service the Provincial park is buried. My cottage is located 3 km away from that buried line.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and I hope you will seriously consider my proposal. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Joel Godecki

