

[REDACTED]

---

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 11:26 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 --  
Doug Cates

-- Phone --  
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --  
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

In a February 12, 2021 letter from Hydro One, I've been advised of a pending customer classification change that will affect the electricity rates for energy used at my seasonal property at [REDACTED]. While I was unaware that the Hydro One "Seasonal Rates" do not correctly apportion distribution costs to Seasonal Rate Class customers, I'm not opposed to a change that will "fairly" address the issue.

However, the letter further advises me that Hydro One Networks anticipates that I will move into the Residential Low Density (R2) Class. The letter includes a Table that indicates a change to my monthly electricity cost, after moving to "All-Fixed Rates" and Residential Low Density (R2) Class, of plus one hundred and twelve percent (+112%).

This huge increase seems unfair.

To get a better understanding of the rationale behind the anticipated move to Residential Low Density (R2) Class, I visited the Hydro One website and reviewed "How are rate classes assigned?" and "How is a Density Review Done?"

I decided to complete my own Density Review.

I'm not sure where Hydro One has set the geographical boundaries for the customer cluster that includes me. It seems logical though that the boundaries would be set at the beginning of the lateral line, at the north end of Gill Road, and the end of the line on the same road. Including loops into two subdivisions off of Gill Road the line appears to be approximately 7km long.

Since I have no access to the Hydro One Networks geographical information system (GIS), I referred to the Google GIS. While the Google map referred to is out of date and does not show about ten new customers, it does show about

141 serviced properties along the line. That means approximately 40 more customers in the cluster and 5 more customers per kilometer of line than are required to meet the Hydro One criteria for a Medium Density Zone.

I also completed a small survey of nearby Residential Customer neighbors who indicated they are billed at Medium Density rates.

At my current rate of electricity use, the table indicates a change to "All-Fixed" plus Residential Medium (R1) Density would result in a bill increase of two percent (+2%). And if my usage increases to a level more indicative of full time residential occupancy my bill would be eleven percent lower (- 11%) than the Seasonal Rate.

In my case, the elimination of the Seasonal Rate Class does not seem to be an issue. Moving to the Residential Low Density (R2) Class is.