

F [REDACTED]

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 9:27 AM
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2021-03-15

-- Case Number --
EB-2020-0246, EB-2019-0234, EB-2016-0315

-- Name --
Andrew McCallum

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

I write to express my strong disapproval of Hydro One's proposed rate changes due to the abolition of the so-called seasonal class. In my family's case, living full-time at a so-called seasonal property, it will result in an approximately 20% increase in our already staggeringly high electricity rates. For the last three months we paid \$869.00. We do not use electric heat. Seasonal neighbours of ours, who do use electric heat, paid approximately \$2100 over the same period.

I would make three points. First, our Quebec neighbours pay 6.02 cents/KwH for the first 1200 Kw per period, far less than the exorbitant rates Ontarians pay. How can a further increase in rates be justified in that context? Second, electricity services used to be referred to as a utility.

Societally, a utility is something that is needed for the common good. As such, some disparity in returns across regions served by Hydro One should be not only acceptable, but viewed positively. The rate increases caused by Hydro One will cause hardship for many rural customers. My final point is that Hydro One states in its own annual report that it is a profitable business with a \$1.4B excess of revenues over expenses. On that backdrop, there is no justification for wringing further money out of already struggling customers.