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From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:58 PM  
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 --

L. Kohalmi

-- Phone --

[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --

[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

The information necessary to most effectively participate in the hearing has not been provided by Hydro One in the hearing notice sent to seasonal customers. This information could not be found on-line. What is especially missing are the specific criteria by which each individual seasonal resident is being transferred to a new rate class. This needs to be provided along with a high resolution map showing the distribution of all rate classes.

Many year-round principal residences currently in the R2 rate class have previously been cottages in the seasonal rate class. These year-round principal residences are interspersed with seasonal cottages. To argue that seasonal cottages adjacent to year-round residences should be charged a substantially higher hydro rate because there is some electricity wasted when power is not being used does not seem right.

What exactly is the power-loss difference between a seasonal residence and an adjacent year-round residence only 50 to 100 feet distant? We need some numbers here.

Another issue involves the privatization of Hydro One whereby the focus of electricity distribution has shifted from providing a fairly-priced vital public service to one of increasing shareholder dividends and stock price that is dependent on continuous growth and increased power consumption.

Large rate increases by an individual service provider can be justified in a free market where there is ample competition but not in the case of a monopoly which is the situation in Ontario. Additionally, low-power-consuming seasonal customers moved to the R2 rate class should not be heavily penalized for conserving energy to the tune of 100% and in some cases much higher rate increases. The opposite should be the case.

A fair solution would be to give seasonal customers transferred to the R2 rate class the exact same substantial monthly credits of \$60.50 (RRRP/DRP) that year-round residents receive. Even if the proposed rate increases are spread out over time to mitigate the impact the end result is patently unfair to former seasonal residents.

If the OEB claims to be a fair and impartial public agency then it needs to provide fair electricity rates for all Hydro One customers and reward rather than penalize energy conservation. The proposed changes are so unfair and the underlying issues so important that one solution would be to put off the changes until after the next provincial election. The affected parties would then have time to acquire the necessary data and have a real say in the decision making.