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[Redacted]
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[Redacted] March 16, 2021
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Ontario Energy Board,
P.O. Box 2319,
2300 Young Street,
27th floor,
Toronto, Ontario M4P1E4
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's Seasonal Rate Class
(EB-2020-0246).

Re: the property at [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Information sent to me by Hydro One Networks which
I received on Feb 26, 2021 and to which I was required to
respond to by March 15, 2021 in order to be heard, indicates
it is proposed by the O.E.B. that the seasonal property rate

classification for 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. Quote: "The ^{O.E.B.} energy board 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, 50 year old bungalow style home, situated on a quiet gravel road, with no wind mill, situated in a farm community. It was inhabited in earlier years by my parents. After my father died in 1981 with a brain tumor which was malignant, my mother continued to live there for many years. Because of declining health, she moved into a long term care facility where she died at the age of 91 years. This property has become mine and it was a long term goal (as the house had 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 underhangs & eave 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 wallboard panelling for dry wall, upgrade water system, septic system, insulation etc. 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 done by people in the 70-80 year age group.

① These efforts have been delayed by the illness and passing of my mother.

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② Rob was again put on hold when my husband, now 80 years, developed flesh eating disease (necrotising fasciitis) in his left leg, requiring 6 weeks hospitalization (3 debriding surgeries) followed by 3 skin grafts) with 7 weeks of nurses coming into our home daily. Physiotherapy was then required. Though recovery was slow, he was able to keep his disfigured leg which needs care for hot circulation.

③ Further delay occurred when my husband's older brother (a bachelor) became ill and lost his drivers license. We were needed to take him to doctor, dental, eyeglass, diabetic foot care appointments etc. He did his cleaning, grocery shopping, laundry and supervised his medications. Because of declining mental and physical health, he was admitted to hospital and died in the I.C.U of Chatham Kent Health Alliance. A funeral and tax issues needed to be dealt with including concluding his personal affairs.

As you may see, it has been difficult to proceed with our plans for this farm house so that it could become someone's home.

In the information we received from Hydro One, it was brought to our attention that we used 0.00 kWh's in 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 Lacalle 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.

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Many infections are in the agrifarm sector with resulting deaths. Workers are brought in, in large numbers, to work in the greenhouses 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 them, not withstanding the language barrier with some. At present, an outbreak among the poor and homeless are presenting a challenge to the public health as well as organizations such as Street Help, the Salvation Army and the Downtown Mission that struggle to help them. Outbreaks have occurred on some units at the hospital. The health care system has been stretched to the limit and there is a worry that it could become overwhelmed. Front line 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 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 on-line 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 on-line 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 these directives. Many businesses have closed, some never to re-open. Unemployment is high. A quotation from Ann Jarvis's column of the Toronto Star from Mar 13, 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 yrs and over. My husband is 80 yrs and yet to receive his vaccine. I am 79 yrs.

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 grocery and when we do are tense and fearful. He would be breaking the law to travel from one area to another when our area has been declared to be in the red, grey or lockdown zone.

It would appear, if I am correct, the changes proposed by the Ontario Energy Board, would cause me to be paying more than four times the amount of (\$47.86) than was paid for delivery charges in 2020 for 0.0 kWh of electricity. I receive a bill from Hydro One once every three months that should cut down on electricity costs. Full time residents, whose homes are serviced by the existing Hydro lines on this road, 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 had on how to economize of 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 costs.

We recognize that green energy is important and the

(6) ^{of 6} 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, grass cutting, weeding, taxes 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 OEB, can
relate in any way, to my situation or 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 favor of these changes.

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

Please reconsider!

Sincerely
Beatrice Ross

Copy to Mr. Rick Nicholls MPP
Chatham-Kent.