

[REDACTED]

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:43 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 --
Larry and Shirley Niemi

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --
March 15, 2021
Re: Ontario Energy Board Hearing to consider the next steps in eliminating Hydro One Networks Inc.'s Season Rate Class (EB-2020-0246)

Re: Niemi, Larry and Shirley - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My husband and I are owners of a cottage on property located at Lac des Mille Lac Lake in Northwestern Ontario. We received the letter from Hydro One indicating the Ontario Energy Board Hearing to consider next steps in eliminating Hydro One Network's Seasonal Class.

We have been advised that we will be moved from the seasonal class into the residential low density (R2) class and that our bill will increase by over 100%.

We are very concerned that we will not be able to afford the costs of remaining owners of our cottage. We are senior citizens on fixed incomes and are concerned that the effects of this increase will be devastating to our family. Due to our northern climate, we only use our cottage during the summer months. Our cottage is small; we do not have running water, nor a septic system. Currently, less than one-third of our Hydro One bill is the actual cost of electricity, while over two-thirds is delivery, tax, regulatory charges. Increasing additional costs will make it very difficult for us to keep our cottage, as our bill will increase to at least \$2,000.00 per year, with only 1/5th being the actual cost of electricity.

I spoke with a Public Information Officer (Maloney, ext. 705) from Hydro One.

She advised that Hydro One wants to maintain the low-density seasonal rate. She said that Hydro One is satisfied with the current rates.

If Hydro One is satisfied with the current rates, why would the Ontario Energy Board advocate for the huge increase for over 80,000 customers of Hydro One? I understand that the Ontario Energy Board is an “independent and impartial public agency,” and as such it should be obvious that an increase of 100% is unacceptable.

Also, if we are going to lose our seasonal designation, we should qualify for and receive the Rural Rate Protection credit given to other existing low-density customers (\$60.50/month).

Finally, we feel that we are being penalized because we live in a low-density area. It is not fair that customers who live closer to a large centre are having their hydro costs reduced, while we bear the brunt of the costs. Many other public/government agencies recognize the additional costs we, in Northwestern Ontario, have. For example, the Ontario Northern Travel Grant recognizes the discrimination to residents who live in a remote area, and provided a refund of costs to Northern residents. Even car licenses are reduced for Northern Residents, due to the distances travelled. We feel that all hydro customers should share any increased costs.

Please help us keep our family cottage so that it can continue to be used by us, our children, and grandchildren.
Respectfully submitted,

Larry and Shirley Niemi

