

[REDACTED]

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:52 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

-- Name --
Brian & Tanya Glassford

-- Phone --

-- Company --

-- Address --

-- Comments --

RE: EB - 2020-0246

DEAR ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD,

This is our written submission regarding the Ontario Energy Board hearing to consider the next steps in eliminating Hydro One Networks Inc.'s Seasonal Rate Class (EB-2020-0246).

We are the owners of a seasonal property located at [REDACTED]. On our property is a humble 400 square foot 3-season cottage that is open from mid-May to late October each year for personal (non-commercial/non-rental) use. Our 2020 Hydro distribution cost averaged \$32.72 monthly. Our 2020 Hydro consumption cost was less than \$60 for the entire year.

The elimination of the Seasonal Class rate will see our modest property shift to Hydro One's Residential R2 rate class. This will result in our distribution cost skyrocketing to \$114.13 as we are in the 50 kWh monthly consumption category.

We recognize the decision to eliminate the Seasonal Class has been finalized and that the scope of the current hearing is to decide when the new distribution costs will apply and what mitigation strategies will be used to reduce the financial impact on previously rated seasonal customers.

As the Energy Board considers these important decisions, we are suggesting the following guiding principles:

- Proportionality: Customers within the same residential class should pay for distribution costs that is proportional to their consumption.

- The current tiers of 50, 350 and 1000 kWh for transitioning seasonal customers as set out in the Hydro One

Report are not proportional. Hydro One's model shows low consumption consumers (such as us) effectively subsidizing higher consumption consumers.

- A move to a proportional model means customers pay their fair share of the distribution cost, it encourages energy conservation and demonstrates environmental responsibility and leadership by the Ontario Energy Board and Hydro One.

- Consumer Cost-Sharing: The costs associated with mitigation (such as rebates or credits) should be paid for by all Hydro One customers, since the elimination of the seasonal rate class, according to Hydro One, will benefit all customers.

- Capped Increases: Annual distribution rate increases should be capped at no more than 10% for transitioning seasonal rate class customers. This is particularly important for customers on a fixed income such as in our situation.

- Delayed Implementation: The initial implementation date for these new rates should be no earlier than 1 year after the final decision of the Ontario Energy Board on these important transitional issues. The time will provide the opportunity for Hydro One to implement the transition strategy and effectively communication details to its customers.

- Individual Communication: Once the Energy Board has rendered its decision on the implementation and mitigation, Hydro One should be required to send detailed and individualized communications to all seasonal customers outlining exactly what to expect and when to expect it.

Thank you for your consideration of our written submission.

Best regards,

Brian and Tanya Glassford