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From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:09 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 --  
Eva Berringer

-- Phone --  
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --  
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

I am deeply concerned by the proposed rate changes resulting from the elimination of the Seasonal Class. While I appreciate that the decision has already been taken to eliminate the Seasonal Class, the imposition of the rate change seems to disproportionately impact low consumption users in the Low Density (R2) Class. Users in this category will be seeing a rate increase of 100%, compared to other users in the Low Density (R2) class who will be seeing increases of 54% (350 kWh monthly consumption) and 28% (1,000 kWh monthly consumption). Low consumption users in other Density classes will not be similarly penalized. In Urban High Density areas, low consumption users will actually see a decrease in their bills of 44%, a more significant decrease than other users in this density class (-25% for 350 kWh users and -13% for 1,000 kWh users). This difference in treatment of low consumption users needs to be justified. If anything, in light of climate change, low consumption should be encouraged not discouraged.

In 2020, my payments to Hydro One totalled \$963.15. This is for a three-season cottage that is basically used for four months, from June to September with minimal draw on electricity - refrigerator, hot water tank (turned off when the cottage is not in use), well pump and occasional use of fans or electric baseboard heaters depending on the weather. (I had understandably, but mistakenly been under the impression that the Seasonal Class meant that cottage owners were charged higher rates than other properties!)

According to the proposed rate change, my property would be subject to the highest rate change due to the elimination of the Seasonal Class, a 12% increase due to moving to Seasonal Class moving to All-Fixed Rates and a further 100% increase by moving to Residential Low Density (R2) Class. This would mean potential charges in excess of \$1,800/year. While the property is rated as R2, it is easily accessible, being close to a paved secondary road.

I would ask that the application of the rate changes due to the elimination of the Seasonal Class be reconsidered, in particular the excessive increase being imposed on low consumption users in the R2 category.