

From: [seasonalrateclass](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Letter of Comment - EB-2020-0246
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:04:44 PM

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 9:49 AM
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2021-03-12

-- Case Number --
EB-2020-0246, EB-2019-0234, EB-2016-0315

-- Name --
Glenn Rivard

-- Phone --
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --

We are owners of a modest cottage that we use about four months of the year. Although the Ontario Energy Board has indicated it will not reconsider the decision to end the Seasonal Rate, we want to go on the record as saying that we disagree with this decision and believe the Seasonal Rate should be maintained.

If the OEB proceeds with the decision to eliminate the Seasonal Rate, we believe that the proposed new rates are unfair since they appear to reward high energy users while being punitive for low energy users such as ourselves. Given widespread and serious concerns about global warming, we believe the incentive contained within the new rates for higher energy users is harmful to the environment and not in the public interest.

This is clearly seen, for example, when we consider the projected rate increase for a Seasonal Class customer who is moved to the Residential Low Density class (such as ourselves). The projected rate increase for a low energy user (50 kWh/month) is over 100%, while the medium energy user (350 kWh/month) will see only a 54% increase. The highest energy user (1,000 kWh/month) will see only a 28% increase. While the kWh consumption of the high energy user is over 20 times higher than the low energy user, the high energy user will be paying just over twice as much per month as the low energy user (\$240 versus \$115). In short, the new rates incentivize high energy use as the cost per kWh declines significantly as more kWh are consumed. The owners of large mansion 'cottages', who can well afford to pay their fair share, will proportionately pay less for hydro use than the middle income owners of more modest cottages.

This approach is not consistent with the need to reduce energy use. People living in large, energy consuming cottages will pay significantly less per kWh than those of us who have more modest accommodations that consume less energy. If a rate change is implemented, it must be fair to all.

As a final point, regardless of what the final rates are, the OEB should phase in these changes over a ten year period to allow cottage owners time to adjust to the new, higher rates. Many such owners are seniors and live on fixed incomes, such as ourselves, and the proposed jump in Hydro rates would be difficult to accommodate if imposed all at once.

Thank you for taking our concerns into account.