

March 15, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Re. NOTICE "Ontario Energy Board Hearing to consider next steps in eliminating HydroOne Networks Seasonal Rate Class"

First...I have to say..."I'm pissed about this forced change!"

HYDRO should be classed as an "affordable essential need" for quality of life" !!

I am an owner of a seasonal property in the Parry Sound District, Georgian Bay Area and customer of Hydro One. According to Hydro One my classification will be changing to "residential low density (R2)class", the Seasonal rate to be eliminated.

If this change relates to charges for distribution services that do not provide enough money from seasonal rate payers...then why now?? We already have been paying "delivery charges" monthly/yearly even when our cottage hydro is shut off and the cottage is unoccupied for up to 7 months. It seems between OEB and Hydro One this need to assess distribution requirements has been ignored and/or not dealt with in a responsible way over several years.

Since it has been and still is the OEB's responsibility to "regulate natural gas and electricity utilities in Ontario"...where was the OEB when you sat-back, maybe

ignored the consideration and construction of gas powered electrical plants too close to residential areas !? Where was your concern then ? Once finally "opposed" and cancelled at a cost of almost \$\$\$1 Billion dollars to the Ontario tax-payers....this proves absolute failure of fiscal responsibility and consumer protection.

It is also my understanding the OEB must "ensure an adequate level of consumer protection in energy markets"...this is not happening if Hydro One goes ahead with their current plan. Why can't this be simply 1 class regardless of density and every ratepayer pays the same amount. Higher density areas in numbers would place higher demands on the electrical utilities being all the conveniences they have at their disposal as opposed to a small boat access property... Equal representation !

Our seasonal property would be changed to the proposed R2 class...the "example table" they have provided based on 2022 rates (not approved yet by the OEB)...the estimated impact could be devastating on many seasonal property owners, being 100% increase/ month + delivery charges + regulatory charges + HST...and for how many years ?? I expect as our hydro consumption fluctuates, so will the cost ...along with every other consumer product. Currently Ontario consumers are receiving an "Ontario Electricity Rebate". That will not last indefinitely. I could likely tolerate 25 to 30% increase but not 100%...this is not a form of "consumer protection" ...this amount spells "cash grab" to make up for the horrendous mismanagement and lack of responsible leadership required to manage our provincial energy requirements in the past...the Liberal McGuinty/Wynne gas plant failures, the costly "alternative" giant turbine Windmill contracts that will cost us into eternity at the least. All these billions of dollars spent without clear foresight and consideration to the average consumer. We know wind power is not producing the energy we need to reduce our consumer costs, instead our costs are increasing but not our annual income needed to offset where this entire OEB/HydroOne plan is going. Most windmills sit dormant at any given time! Taking critical time to evaluate our energy needs while buying cheap power from Quebec could have proven to be much better plan for the interim...we know that didn't happen. Also we are facing another Federal Liberal "carbon tax" hike April 1, 2021.

Our provincial Cottage industry will greatly be affected by your decisions re this matter to where many owners may fail or abandon such properties...a needless ordeal for local governments. The ongoing Covid 19 pandemic now going into year 2 and expected to remain with us possibly for many years to come must also be a consideration and deterrent to your consideration re costs as proposed by HydroOne if the Board is serious about "consumer protection".

Regardless of the idea of mitigating the cost to the property owner...this plan alone will not protect consumers from having large bill increases. They should not be penalized for being positioned in areas of low density. There must be a more fair and equitable plan to address the OEB demand to eliminate a seasonal-rate-class.

Until such agencies as the OEB, HydroOne, Federal and Provincial government's get all affairs together...we will be regressing back to the days we left behind to 100 years ago! You are all killing the middle class Consumer !

Regards,

Fran Walser



