

From: [seasonalrateclass](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Letter of Comment - EB-2020-0246
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:51:33 PM

From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 6:16 PM
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Letter of Comment - [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --
2021-03-13

-- Case Number --
EB-2020-0246

-- Name --
Steven Waddell

-- Phone --

-- Company --

-- Address --

-- Comments --
13 March 2021

REF: EB-2020-0246

Hello,
This letter is in regard to the elimination of the Seasonal class.

I own a property on Lake Temagami, which I occupy for 8 months of each calendar year. Based on the letter received from Hydro One on 23 Feb 2021, I will be shifted from Seasonal to Residential Low Density (R2) Class. According to the enclosed bill table, my class shift will account for the highest increases of any of the changes – a full 100% or doubling of my bill. This is completely unacceptable.

On review of the other proposed rate adjustments, higher consumption in the R2 class will result in lesser increases. The other classes (Residential Medium Density and Urban High Density) will see reductions in their rates.

Incredibly, those in Urban density may see their rates drop by up to 44%.

This indicates but one thing: Rural customers will be disproportionately shouldering the impact of the elimination of the Seasonal class by essentially subsidizing the rate decreases for Urban customers.

Rural residents of Ontario do not simply ‘choose’ to live in these areas.

Many operate businesses or need access to affordable housing and real estate.

Energy availability, and affordability, is a fundamental component of our way of life. While I agree that costs must be routinely reviewed and adjusted, in this instance the adjustments are completely disproportional. A small cohort of customers, less than 100,000, will now be required to subsidize the rate reductions of the majority of Hydro One’s

1.4 million customers. This is completely illogical, and manifestly unfair.

I urge the Ontario Energy Board to reconsider the distribution of rates across all rate classes, and instruct Hydro One accordingly. I believe that modest adjustments to the Urban and Medium Density class rates proposed would be sufficient to more appropriately absorb the exorbitant increases being imposed on a very small cohort of current Seasonal customers. Further, in eliminating the seasonal rate, Hydro One should go further and establish two classes only: Urban and Rural. By merging and absorbing Seasonal and R2 / R1 into a single rate Class, the impact of significant increases to the Seasonal customer base can be better implemented.

Again, I urge the Board to consider the disproportionate impact on the relatively small Seasonal customer base, and comparative advantage that would result for the Urban Class. To not do so would amount to yet another blow for Northern Ontario residents, at the hands of corporate boardrooms in Toronto.

Steve Waddell



-- Attachment --

<https://www.oeb.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/comment-form/OEB%20Hearing%20EB-2020-0246.pdf>