



Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

P O Box 146 Cloyne Ontario K0H 1K0

March 15, 2021

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Attn: Christine Long, Registrar

RE: EB-2020-0246, EB-2019-0234, EB-2016-0315

Dear Ms. Long,

The Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association (SDRA) is submitting this letter as formal comment in the proceeding related to the elimination of the Hydro One seasonal rate class.

Located in the Township of Addington Highlands, the SDRA comprises approximately 200 member property owners, many of which are seasonal rate class customers of Hydro One, in low density distribution areas. The proposed elimination of the seasonal rate class will have its most severe impact on our members and other seasonal property owners in the area. The SDRA strongly opposes the OEB's decision to proceed with this proposal, for many reasons that have been stated by previous commenters and intervenors over the past six years.

The penalizing of seasonal property owners began when the OEB initiated fixed distribution rates, requiring customers to pay for hydro services during months they were not even able to access their properties. In many cases, seasonal customers shut off the power to their properties for at least six months of the year. Since then, rates for distribution have continued to rise, in addition to the commodity rate, while there has been no discernable increase in grid reliability.

Since the OEB has seen fit to ignore the plight of the seasonal property owners and the thousands of comments in opposition to the decision, the SDRA would put forth the following proposal in the implementation of the seasonal rate class elimination.

- That the calculated impact to customers, as a result of being moved to a density-based residential rate class, be delayed until January 1, 2023.
 - This will provide customers time to recover from the current COVID-19 pandemic.

- In cases where the rate increase will force customers to sell their seasonal properties, this delay will provide time to do so.
- In 2021, it is expected that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) will issue property assessments, to take effect in 2022. This would compound the impact on seasonal properties, if rate increases were to be implemented in 2022.
- Further, for those customers who opt to disconnect their hydro connection and go off-grid, this will allow sufficient time to plan and implement that decision.
- That the calculated impact to customers be limited to annual increases of no more than 10%.
 - This is to include other rate impacts, including further fixed distribution rates, regulatory charges, and forecasted commodity rate changes
 - This will allow the most impacted customers time to adjust to the new rates.
- That previous seasonal class customers be offered a unique energy efficiency savings program.
 - This could include financial grants for energy efficient projects/appliances to assist customers with reducing their electricity consumption and costs

The SDRA appreciates the time you have taken to review our comments and hope that the implementation of the seasonal rate class elimination proposal will be both fair and reasonable.

Sincerely,



Joel Arthurs,
President, SDRA