

OEB file number EB-2020-0246

## Proposed Rate Increase for Seasonal Properties

I need to comment on the elimination of the seasonal rate class by the OEB., and your proposed rate increases for customers that are presently classified in the seasonal rate category.

My Hydro account has been active since 1953 when Ontario Hydro first installed distribution lines to the north shoreline of Koshlong Lake in Haliburton county. In 1953 the only customers Hydro had were seasonal ones.

I also find it disturbing that Ontario Hydro and later Hydro One had no problem having seasonal users who financed their operation throughout the 1950's, right into most of the 2000's. Seasonal users are customers too contributing substantially so do not deserve the elimination of their class as customers and being told to absorb an outrageous increase to their costs.

The rate increase proposal sent to me by Hydro One indicates that you intend to increase my Hydro account costs by 100%. As I look over the proposal it becomes very clear that this plan is designed to impact and punish the most customers who use the least amount of hydro.

For decades all I have heard from Ontario's energy providers is encouragement to conserve the use of hydro. Program after program has been offered through energy providers to help with the cost of reducing usage. Some of these initiatives I have even implemented at my seasonal property which now are being threatened by your proposal to penalize us for using less.

Because you are designing a system that is punishing those who use less, your system is flawed and hypocritical to say the least.

My hydro account can only remain seasonal, as it has always been, and will likely never change in the future despite the OEB eliminating the class. My property sits between two fulltime residential homes not more than 150 feet from my service line on each side. The exact same distribution equipment is used to provide service to these fulltime residential homes as my property so there is no additional cost to you for delivering my seasonal service. We always receive bills reflecting the winter months where we pay hefty delivery charges, for delivering nothing, when we have used zero electricity. Despite this important point you propose to raise my rate by 100% solely because I use less electricity. This is direct discrimination of someone conserving electricity usage!

The suggestion of easing in this rate change in your proposal is certainly not very clear. However Hydro One has proposed that 10% increase would be OK with them. I want to point out that 10% increase is oppressive and totally unfair. Inflation is under 2% per year. Any increase at all should be held to the yearly inflation numbers. Any costs increase over that is excessive. I am a senior living on a fixed income for the rest of my life.

I understand costs go up, but good management practices should be implemented to control them. You should not be gouging a certain sector of your customers to make up for a system running out of control.

David and Jill Harrison

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