

**From:** registrar  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CM: Letter of Comment EB-2020-0246  
**Date:** Monday, April 12, 2021 9:45:16 AM

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From: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:18 PM  
To: registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>  
Subject: Letter of Comment [REDACTED]

The Ontario Energy Board

-- Comment date --  
2021-04-11

-- Case Number --  
EB-2020-0246

-- Name --  
Stéphanie and Robert Charbonneau

-- Phone --  
[REDACTED]

-- Company --

-- Address --  
[REDACTED]

-- Comments --  
To whom it may concern,

We received a letter from Hydro One informing us of upcoming changes to the Seasonal Rate Class.

We are writing today to express our opposition to the rate increases proposed for the Seasonal Rate Class customers of Hydro One moving to the Residential Low Density (R2) Class - Category Seasonal as part of case EB-2020-0246.

We purchased our rural property in July 2020 from our parents to keep the family cottage in the family. This is a modest property in rural Ontario which has been in the family for over 40 years. We were surprised to learn after taking possession that we would be categorized as Seasonal Rate Class customers by Hydro One, as we did not reside at this property on a permanent basis, despite the fact that this home is connected to and uses hydro 12 months per year. Further, this residency distinction is not applied anywhere else, property taxes or private road fees, where we pay the same and equal fees as our rural neighbors who reside in their homes full time.

The current Seasonal Rate Class charges us higher fixed and variable rates than our same density rural neighbors who are classified as Residential Low Density (R2) Class and benefit from the Rural and Remote Electricity Rate Protection (RRRP) and Distribution Rate Protection (DRP) rebates, but provides reduced fees compared to the full Residential Low Density (R2) Class rates. Under the proposed structure, the Residential Low Density (R2) Class would have a category designation that will continue to differentiate homeowners between seasonal and permanent unlike the other Rate Classes. The Seasonal clients would thus pay full Residential Low Density (R2) Class rates as they will continue to be excluded from both the RRRP and DRP rebates increasing existing customer rates by up to 100% for the same service. The mitigating measures provided by the Seasonal Rate Class having been eliminated. The end result is that the proposed structure will increase the existing price gap between immediate rural neighbors resulting in even less equitable hydro pricing in the Residential Low Density (R2) Class as compared to the existing

Rate Class structure. This will make our rural cottage property less affordable, making it harder to keep this property in the family, and reduce our property resale value.

The OEB has the obligation to ensure that all Residential Low Density (R2) Class customers are treated equally and fairly for the same essential service as this proposal implements for the other Rate Classes. We ask that the OEB fulfill its commitment to fair and equal pricing in all Rate Classes by implementing appropriate rebates to ensure that all Residential Low Density

(R2) Class customers, seasonal and permanent, are charged equivalent final rates on their hydro bills.

Kind Regards,  
Stéphanie Jetté-Charbonneau  
Robert Charbonneau

-- Attachment --