

From: [registrar](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Letter of Comment, Hydro One Networks - Elimination of Seasonal Rates - OEB File No. EB-2020-0246
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:04:32 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

From: Al Hnatiuk [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:12 AM
To: greg.rickford@pc.ola.org
Cc: horwatha-qp@ndp.on.ca; Jfraser.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; RHillier-CO@ola.org; Michelle Lewin <communications@foca.on.ca>; Naomi Fowlie <fowlie.naomi@gmail.com>; registrar <registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Hydro One Networks - Elimination of Seasonal Rates - OEB File No. EB-2020-0246

Dear Minister Rickford,

We own a seasonal residence in Lanark County, on Pike Lake in Tay Valley Township. We were advised by Hydro One (H1) letter dated Feb 11, 2021, that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is forcing H1 to significantly increase electricity costs for this property.

Up to that point (Feb 11), I was not aware of what was going on in the halls of either the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) or Hydro One(H1) . Their intent is to “reclassify” the H1 “seasonal residence” ratepayer classification into the H1 “R2” ratepayer classification. The basis to justify this enormous increase in reality is twofold, the “reclassification”, .. and their claim that “seasonal properties are not paying their fair share.” Their estimate for my total bill is approx 50% higher than present.) This process was initiated by OEB and H1 several years ago (circa 2015) . Based on information I am now aware of, is that the fundamental structure/detail for the reclassification and increase in rates was mature by 2017! This without much ado! Until it has was dropped on ratepayers this last February!

My view of this matter is that approximately 78,000 H1 ratepayers are the victims of a pretty stupid idea! For many reasons, I do not intend to go into the depths of the issue at this time.

However, the basic point is that OEB/H1 action here is overly simplistic for a very complex problem/issue. I have looked at information that is available regarding the detail of, the H1 “R2” and “Seasonal” ratepayer classifications and I feel that the Provincial Government should intercede on this matter. Specifically, to suspend this action, and to provide for the opportunity to take a fresh look at the issue with a fresh set of experts. Let the impacted ratepayers have full transparency in that process and time to absorb the proposed findings and recommendations. The present concept by OEB and H1 that seasonal properties are taking unfair advantage of the other ratepayers should be thoroughly reviewed, particularly in regards the **rural and remote** segment of H1 ratepayers including the interplay of seasonal in that mix. (i.e. not UR or R1 classes).

Attached is my response (April 15, 2021) to Mr. Rahimtoola’s (OEB) notice titled; **Procedural Order No. 1 - Hydro One Networks - Elimination of Seasonal Rates - OEB File No. EB-2020-0246**. From

this document OEB states that they are ready for the finishing touches, if you go by the “next steps” list of 13 ratepayer questions OEB has identified for H1 to resolve to that end. I have readily compiled 14 of my own question, which I have not been able to get answers to in the last 6 weeks or so! My response to OEB is attached.

I appreciate that the Government of Ontario is pre-occupied with the pandemic issue, and I apologize for having to bring this to your attention under pandemic conditions. However, I feel that OEB and H1 have accelerated an issue here that they have been sitting on for a long time. Now it has suddenly been accelerated to take advantage of the pandemic conditions! This to allow these changes to pass through guaranteeing minimum feedback until, ... fait accompli! It's only affecting 78,000 ratepayers vs total H1 ratepayers of 1.4 Million! No big deal!?

Hamlet: Something is rotten in the state of Denmark!

Regards

Al Hnatiuk

cc

Andrea Horwath, MPP Hamilton Center

John Frazer, MPP Ottawa South

Michelle Lewin, FOCA

Naomi Fowlie, PLCA

OEB