

May 27, 2021

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Young Street
Toronto, ON
M4P 1E4

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Hydro One; Eliminating Seasonal Rate Class (EB-2020-0246)

We are writing to you in response to the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision to remove the existing Seasonal Rate Class for seasonal properties in our district.

The OEB is suggesting that seasonal property owners do not pay their fair share, stating "the distribution rates currently charged to seasonal customers do not appropriately reflect the cost to serve them." Would you please provide us with the data used to determine that seasonal property owners do not pay fairly for the use of their Hydro utility service. We are concerned that you have not considered seasonal property owners of island properties correctly.

Seasonal property owners, who can drive to their properties, pay to get connected to a preexisting grid, in most cases about \$1,500.00, which includes the transformer and all related infrastructure. Island property owners, like ourselves, who have access only by boat, pay \$60,000.00 to \$100,000.00 or more to get connected. We pay for the permits required from the ministries and the infrastructure to provide electricity; such as submarine cable per metre, the transformer and hook up connections; this is a cost bared by island owners only. Then we must transfer ownership to Hydro One where the infrastructure is used to connect to other seasonal properties who also paid for their infrastructure. Then we are charged for the use of the infrastructure that we gave to them. This is a huge up-front cost to seasonal property owners on islands and it should be recognized and credited appropriately.

Another consideration is that if we keep getting these increases, seasonal property owners will move back to fossil fuels like propane and oil. These are forms of energy that are less friendly to the environment and increase the carbon foot-print. This would also reduce the number of Hydro One customers which may require further increases for remaining users.

We became a Hydro One customer at our seasonal island property at the end of October 2018. At that time our cost for consumption was 0.077 KWh, today our cost has change in two ways; to a tiered rate of 0.101 KWh for the first 1000KW and 0.118 over 1000 KWh. This is approximately a 45% increase in three years. Removing the seasonal classification and putting us into a residential low density (R2) classification would further increase our rate by another 54%.

Ideally we would like to see that seasonal property owners on islands would have their rates put back to \$0.077 to be fair to us for building the infrastructure, or, pay us for the infrastructure.

We look forward to receiving your data that prompted the reclassification and justifies the proposed resulting increase to seasonal property owner rates on islands who have already paid for the infrastructure and given it back to Hydro One.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our feed back and please keep us informed.

Respectfully,



D'Arcy and Wendy Cuthbert



cc

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