

Quinn Ryan

-- Do you reside in the impacted service area? -- Yes

-- Comments --

Re: EB-2025-0051 – Burlington Hydro Inc. – 2026 Electricity Distribution Rates – Letter of Comment

Dear Board Members,

I write as a concerned residential customer of Burlington Hydro Inc. to urge the Board to reject—or at minimum significantly scale back—the proposed 2026 distribution rate increases. Burlington families are already stretched thin by high living costs and consecutive municipal tax hikes, and cannot absorb another escalating utility burden.

Residents of Burlington face acute cost-of-living pressures. According to Livingcost.org<sup>4</sup>, the average monthly cost of living—including rent and utilities—for a single person in Burlington is \$2,185, placing our city in the top 15 percent of the most expensive and 14th among 153 Canadian cities. Moreover, Ontario's annual inflation rate remains elevated at 2.3 percent as of March 2025, exacerbating already tight household budgets.

Under EB-2025-0051, typical Burlington Hydro customers would face an additional \$9.84 per month for residential (750 kWh) service and \$17.81 per month for small business service (2,000 kWh) beginning January 1, 2026. For details, see the application notice<sup>1</sup>, see the application<sup>2</sup>, and see all documents related to this application<sup>3</sup>. These increases apply solely to distribution charges and do not include commodity, transmission, regulatory, or HST components, meaning the total bill impact will be substantially greater.

On top of rising utility costs, Burlington homeowners have endured steep property tax hikes in recent years: an overall increase of 7.52 percent in the 2023 budget<sup>5</sup>, 6.68 percent in the 2024 budget<sup>6</sup>, and a further projected 5.76 percent in the 2025 budget<sup>7</sup>.

Given these intersecting cost pressures, it is neither reasonable nor compassionate to grant Burlington Hydro's full request. I urge the Board to:

Reject the proposed distribution rate hike or, at minimum, limit the increase to no more than the rate of inflation;

Deny the Advanced Capital Module for SCADA and ADMS projects until Burlington Hydro demonstrates clear cost-effectiveness and prioritizes deferral-account balances that do not unduly burden ratepayers;

Require Burlington Hydro to explore operational efficiencies and alternative financing mechanisms before passing capital costs on to consumers.

Allowing further increases will erode affordability, undermine public confidence in the regulatory process, and exacerbate economic hardship for Burlington families. I respectfully request that the Board carefully weigh the cumulative financial impact on our community before making its decision.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,  
Quinn Ryan

Residential Customer, Burlington Hydro Inc.

<sup>1</sup> Notice of Rate Hearing for Burlington Hydro Inc. (EB-2025-0051), Ontario Energy Board, May 8 2025.

<https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/897445/File/document>

<sup>2</sup> Cover Letter – 2026 Cost of Service Application for Electricity Distribution Rates (EB-2025-0051), Burlington Hydro Inc., April 16 2025. <https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/895494/File/document>

<sup>3</sup> Regulatory Document Search – All documents for EB-2025-0051, Ontario Energy Board.

<https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record?pageLength=400&q=casenumbe%3Aeb-2025-0051&sortBy=recRegisteredOn->

<sup>4</sup> Cost of Living in Burlington, Ontario: rent, food, transport (Livingcost.org, Updated March 2 2025).

<https://livingcost.org/cost/canada/on/burlington>

<sup>5</sup> Council approves 2023 budget focused on improving and protecting the future of our growing city (City of Burlington, Feb. 14 2023). <https://www.burlington.ca/en/news/council-approves-2023-budget-focused-on-improving-and-protecting-the-future-of-our-growing-city.aspx>

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<sup>6</sup> Joint Statement on the Burlington's 2024 Budget (City of Burlington, Nov. 28 2023).

<https://www.burlington.ca/en/news/joint-statement-on-the-burlington-s-2024-budget.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> Overall tax increase for Burlington in 2025 will be 5.82 percent, up from the projected 5.76 percent presented at the Nov. 25 Special Council meeting (City of Burlington, Dec. 11 2024).

<https://www.burlington.ca/en/news/overall-tax-increase-for-burlington-in-2025-will-be-5-82-per-cent.aspx>