

-- Name --

Blake Hamilton

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

-- Comments --

To: Ontario Energy Board Commissioners

Re: Hydro Ottawa Limited – EB-2024-0115 Application for 2026 Electricity Distribution Rates

I am writing as a concerned resident and Hydro Ottawa customer regarding the utility's application for an increase in electricity distribution rates, as outlined in proceeding EB-2024-0115.

Hydro Ottawa is proposing a \$6.08 monthly increase for the average residential customer, and a \$14.57 monthly increase for general service customers under 50kW, effective January 1, 2026. These increases come at a time when many Ottawa residents and small businesses are already struggling with the rising cost of living. Electricity bills are already a significant burden for many households, and I am concerned that this increase will further strain family budgets and small business operations.

The application references various technical adjustments—including the creation of new deferral and variance accounts, updates to standby rates and miscellaneous charges, and a proposed custom rate framework for 2027–2030—but provides little information, in plain language, about the core rationale for this increase.

I respectfully ask:

- What specific cost pressures or infrastructure needs are driving this proposed increase?
- What efficiency measures or cost-saving strategies has Hydro Ottawa implemented to reduce the need for higher rates?
- How will the proposed custom rate framework (tied to inflation and other factors) protect consumers from excessive future rate hikes?

In short, I am seeking more transparency from Hydro Ottawa about why this increase is necessary, how the additional funds will be used, and what steps are being taken to ensure that ratepayers receive good value and reliable service in return.

I urge the Ontario Energy Board to scrutinize this application carefully and ensure that any approved increase is fully justified, reasonable, and in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Blake Hamilton