

Letter of Comment - EB-2024-0115

-- Name --

Ethan Begel

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

-- Comments --

Dear Ontario Energy Board,

I am writing as a residential customer of Hydro Ottawa Limited to express my concerns regarding the company's recent application (EB-2024-0115) for a rate increase effective January 1, 2026. While I understand the need for utilities to recover costs and maintain reliable service, I believe the proposed increase is excessive and warrants further review.

Key Concerns:

Impact on Household Budgets:

The proposed increase of approximately \$6.08 per month for a typical household using 750 kWh is significant, especially for families already facing rising living costs. Many residents are unable to absorb these additional expenses without compromising essential needs.

Questionable Justification for Rate Hike:

I request a detailed explanation and transparency regarding the specific reasons for this rate increase. Are there unnecessary or inflated costs contributing to this proposal? What measures has Hydro Ottawa taken to control costs before passing them onto consumers?

Lack of Clear Benefits:

While rate adjustments are often necessary, I see little evidence that this increase will lead to tangible improvements in service quality or reliability. Instead, it appears primarily aimed at balancing regulatory accounts and funding future rate frameworks, which may not directly benefit consumers.

Future Rate Framework Concerns:

The proposal mentions a new rate framework tied to inflation and efficiency for 2027-2030. I am concerned that such a formula could lead to ongoing rate increases that outpace inflation, further burdening residential customers.

Request for Action:

I urge the Ontario Energy Board to carefully scrutinize this application, ensuring that rate increases are justified, reasonable, and transparent.

Please consider implementing measures to mitigate the impact on vulnerable and low-income households.

I request that Hydro Ottawa explore cost-saving measures and efficiency improvements before passing additional costs onto consumers.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I hope the Board will prioritize the interests of residential consumers and ensure that rate adjustments are fair and justified.