

Letter of Comment - EB-2024-0115

-- Name --

Suzanne Aramouni

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

-- Comments --

Dear Ontario Energy Board,

I am writing as a concerned resident and customer of Hydro Ottawa to formally express my opposition to the proposed increase in electricity distribution rates and other charges, as outlined in file number EB-2024-0115.

The proposed increase of \$6.08 per month for residential customers and \$14.57 per month for general service customers is significant, particularly in the context of rising costs of living, inflation, and the financial stress many households and small businesses are currently facing. This rate hike, if approved, would place an additional burden on consumers who are already struggling to manage their monthly expenses.

While I recognize the importance of maintaining and upgrading the electricity infrastructure, I urge the Board to carefully review whether all proposed adjustments and cost justifications are necessary and reasonable. Transparency around Hydro Ottawa's expenditures, planned improvements, and efficiency measures should be a prerequisite for any approval.

Furthermore, I question the timing and extent of the increase, especially given that other essential services are also becoming more expensive. Utilities should strive to find balanced, consumer-sensitive solutions that prioritize affordability without compromising service quality.

I request the Ontario Energy Board to reject or significantly revise this rate increase proposal to ensure it aligns with the financial realities of the people it serves.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.