

-- Name --

Stephen Miller

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

-- Comments --

To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding Burlington Hyrdo's application (EB-2025-0051) to increase their service fees as from 1st January 2026.

As you are aware, Burlington Hyrdo increased the rate in January 2024 (EB-2024-0010) by a modest 3.45%. The consumer price index in 2023 was reported at 3.9% and 2.4% in 2024 so the rate increase at that time was in line with inflation.

The current application, Burlington Hydro is seeking to raise the monthly service charge by \$8.55, which represents an increase of 26.19% from the current rate. When rate riders are factored in, the increase is 30.05% up from current rates. Notably, the inflation rate for 2025 as per Stats Canada is around the 1.70% mark. The requested rate rise therefore represents a massive rise, and one that is significantly above the inflation rate. Within the application, there is no obvious justification for such a drastic increase in the service fees for Burlington Hydro.

I would further note that using a single value (750 kWh) for their bill impact model fails to adequately represent all customers. For example:

300 kWh: Bill increase of 12.80% from \$76.57 to \$86.37
500 kWh: Bill increase of 9.28% from \$105.37 to \$115.15
750 kWh: Bill increase of 6.90% from \$141.37 to \$151.12
1000 kWh: Bill increase of 5.49% from \$177.36 to \$187.09

Why has the justification for a rate increase been modeled on a single scenario? It would appear the lowest common denominator has been used and those customers using under the 750 kWh amount will actually pay substantially more percentage-wise than those using more.

In addition, the notice of a rate hearing document posted on Burlington Hyrdo's website (and on the OEB site) shows an increase of \$9.84 per month for a TOU customer using 750 kWh per month. In the supporting document on the OEB web site (see file BHI_Attachment13_Tariff_Schedule_and_Bill_Impact_Model_20250416.xlsx), the tab "6. Bill Impacts" actually shows \$9.76 per month and a 7.32% increase. It is not clear why Burlington Hydro's calculations to support the increase do not align with the amount shown on the hearing notice? Surely these numbers should align? Which is correct?

In short, I am not in favour of the increase - neither the magnitude, nor the justification mechanism.

Kind regards

