

Letter of Comment - EB-2024-0115

-- Name --

Harrison Ruess

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

-- Comments --

Residents in Ontario already pay among the highest utility prices on the planet, and this most certainly includes electricity. Nevertheless, we most assuredly do not receive the best service, especially for residents in rural and semi-rural parts of Ottawa, where Hydro Ottawa has systemically disregarded infrastructure shortcomings. There is no acceptable justification to ask ratepayers to pay still-higher rates. The rates, which are already higher than is justifiable, amounts to a forced additional municipal tax, as Hydro Ottawa's profits are routinely deposited into City coffers, rather than being returned to ratepayers. Any "profits" the utility claims each year are simply overpayments that have been compelled from ratepayers, but not returned to ratepayers. Rates, including distribution fees, are already unjustifiably high, and should be lowered so that the utility operates on a cost-neutral basis – otherwise the electricity fees are simply another municipal tax, which residents are forced to pay to our electricity monopoly.

That Hydro Ottawa would request permission to further fleece ratepayers through this application reflects very poorly on the leadership of the organization, and just how out-of-touch they are from the residents they are supposed to serve. In the best interests of Ontarians, the OEB should not only reject, but strongly rebuke this application.