

From: [Office of the Registrar](#)
To: [Zulma DeBonis](#)
Subject: FW: Redacted - Letter of Comment - EB-2026-0056
Date: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:40:48 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:28 PM
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Redacted - Letter of Comment - EB-2026-0056

-- Name --
Nick Kostic

-- Do you reside in the impacted service area? -- No

-- Comments --

I am writing to formally object to the residential rate increases proposed by London Hydro in its 2027 Cost of Service Application (EB-2026-0056). Also, I strongly urge the Board to place a greater share of this financial burden on commercial and industrial entities. Inflation increased dramatically since 2020. Consumer price growth over the last five years heavily squeezed local households. Poor planning of rapid population inflows from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) during this period caused local housing and rent costs to skyrocket. London has faced a severe labor market slowdown. Canada's national unemployment rate is around 6.4%, youth unemployment at 22.2%, London's unemployment rate had a massive peak of 9.2% in April 2026, ranking as the highest jobless rate among all major Canadian cities. London has a high concentration of office corporate operations, customer service, insurance firms, and financial administration. With AI, these administrative, bookkeeping, and data-entry roles are highly vulnerable to AI tools. Local firms are expected to use AI to handle routine junior-level tasks. This means companies can freeze entry-level corporate hiring and executing sudden mass layoffs. The American environmentalist and author Edward Abbey, wrote: "Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell" in his 1977 book The Journey Home. As AI handles basic drafting, scheduling, and coding, graduating students will face a toughest possible environment for the remaining roles that require human oversight. Volkswagen opening delay from 2027 to 2029 means the thousands of projected manufacturing and spin-off logistics jobs will not materialize in time to relieve current local pressures. Other countries have much better approach. In China, infrastructure is financed by state capital and corporate developers to pave the way for technology. In London, Ontario, the utility is attempting to force captive residential consumers to front the financial risk for corporate timelines that can change at any moment. Residential families should not be forced to subsidize the grid expansions necessary for corporate growth. I request that the OEB strictly scrutinize London Hydro's Revenue-to-Cost ratios and adjust the final rate order to protect residential consumers.

Sincerely,
Nikola Kostic

-- Was AI used for the letter of comment? -- No