

From: [Office of the Registrar](#)
To: [Zulma DeBonis](#)
Subject: FW: Redacted - Letter of Comment - EB-2026-0056
Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:29:08 AM

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

From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 11:21 PM
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>
Subject: Redacted - Letter of Comment - EB-2026-0056

-- Name --
Akshay Patel

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

-- Comments --

To the Ontario Energy Board Hearing Panel,

I am writing as a residential ratepayer in London, Ontario, to submit my formal comment and express my strong opposition to London Hydro Inc.'s application to increase its electricity distribution rates starting May 1, 2027. While I understand the utility's desire to fund grid infrastructure upgrades, I strongly urge the Board to reject or substantially reduce this proposed rate hike based on the following practical arguments:

1. Leveraging Existing Net Profits and Shareholder Dividends:

London Hydro remains a consistently profitable municipal utility, generating an estimated \$10 million to \$15 million in annual net profit and paying \$5 million to \$6 million in annual dividends to its sole shareholder, the City of London. Rather than passing higher distribution fees onto residents during a cost-of-living crisis, London Hydro and its municipal owner should re-invest internal profits and adjust dividend expectations to absorb grid modernization costs.

2. Compounding Financial Strain on Households:

London residents are already dealing with unprecedented inflation, including high housing costs, food prices, and municipal tax hikes. Essential utility costs—including municipal water, wastewater, and provincial power generation charges—have steadily climbed. Adding another baseline distribution fee increase of \$6.01/month (plus tax) creates a cumulative burden that low- and middle-income families simply cannot absorb.

3. Distribution Costs Are Fixed, Leaving Limited Room for Customer Mitigation:

Unlike commodity usage (where households can shift consumption off-peak to save money), distribution charges form a non-negotiable fixed delivery floor on our monthly bills. For customers who already practice disciplined energy conservation (using under 600 kWh per month), distribution rate hikes penalize efficient users and make conservation efforts feel pointless.

4. Requirement for Internal Operational Efficiencies:

Before burdening ratepayers with increased capital costs and distribution charges, London Hydro must demonstrate that it has exhausted all internal cost-containment measures, productivity improvements, and operational efficiencies. Capital projects should be phased gradually over a longer horizon rather than funded through immediate residential rate increases.

5. Inequitable Impact on Fixed-Income and Working Families:

While low-income assistance programs exist, many working-class households earn just above the eligibility thresholds for relief, leaving them fully exposed to continuous rate hikes without support.

Electricity is an essential utility, not a luxury. I ask the Ontario Energy Board to fulfill its mandate of protecting consumers by scrutinizing London Hydro's financial projections, rejecting the proposed distribution increase as filed, and requiring the utility to find cost-saving alternatives.

Thank you for considering the perspective of London residents.

Sincerely,
Akshay Patel

-- Was AI used for the letter of comment? --

Yes