

-- Name --
Nick Trichilo

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

-- Comments --
Re: EB-2026-0164 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Joint Rate Application, 2028–2032

I am writing to oppose the distribution rate increases proposed for former seasonal customers in Hydro One's 2028–2032 application. I own a recreational property on Riley Lake near Gravenhurst. It was billed under the Seasonal rate class until that class was eliminated. It is now billed as Residential – Low Density under the Seasonal-R2 transition rates.

MY DELIVERY CHARGES ARE ALREADY RISING MUCH FASTER THAN MY USE
My own bills show that delivery charges, not electricity, are what drive my costs:
- In winter quarters when I used zero kWh, my delivery charge rose from $193.24 (Q1 2023) to $272.65 (Q1 2026). That is a 41% increase in three years for a quarter in which I used no electricity.
- Over my last four bills, delivery cost me $1,138.23, while the electricity I actually used cost $262.28. I pay more than four dollars to Hydro One for every dollar of electricity I consume.

WHAT HYDRO ONE NOW PROPOSES
According to Exhibit L, Tab 2, Schedule 1, Table 1 of the application, the monthly fixed charge for Seasonal-R2 customers would rise as follows:
- 2026 (current): $92.43
- 2027: $103.15
- 2028: $122.14
- 2029: $146.40
- 2030: $176.19
- 2031: $209.91

That is a 127% increase in five years. My fixed delivery charge alone would go from about $1,109 a year to about $2,519 a year, before HST and before I use a single kilowatt-hour. The application states that R2 completes its move to fully fixed rates in 2032, when the full R2 charge is shown at $251.79 a month, 172% above what I pay today.

WHY THIS IS UNFAIR TO SEASONAL OWNERS
1. The increase is out of all proportion to inflation or to any change in service. Nothing about the service at my property has improved to justify more than doubling the charge.
2. A fully fixed charge removes any reward for conservation. Once the volumetric charge is phased out, nothing I do to reduce my use will lower my delivery bill.
3. Seasonal owners appear to be left without protection. The Notice of Hearing describes the Distribution Rate Protection program as keeping delivery charges affordable for year-round medium and low density residential

customers. Seasonal owners in the same low-density areas, on the same lines, would pay the steepest increases with no equivalent relief.
4. The increase funds a larger return for the utility. The application proposes raising Hydro One's equity thickness from 40% to 45% while customers like me absorb double-digit annual increases.

WHAT I AM ASKING THE BOARD TO DO
1. Reject, or substantially reduce, the proposed increases to the Seasonal-R2 fixed charge, and limit any annual increase to a reasonable level tied to inflation.
2. Keep a meaningful volumetric component in low-density rates so customers can still control their bills through conservation.
3. Require Hydro One to state clearly whether former seasonal customers qualify for Distribution Rate Protection, and extend that protection, or equivalent mitigation, to them.
4. Require Hydro One to justify its capital program and the proposed increase in equity thickness before passing those costs to rural and seasonal customers.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Nick Trichilo

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