

-- Name --
Tony 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 object to the distribution rate increases Hydro One proposes for low-density and former seasonal customers in its 2028–2032 application. I own a recreational property on Riley Lake near Gravenhurst, billed by Hydro One as Residential – Low Density.

THE PROPOSED INCREASES
Exhibit L, Tab 2, Schedule 1, Table 1 of the application shows these monthly fixed distribution charges (former seasonal "Seasonal-R2" / low density "R2"):
- 2026 (current): $92.43 / $151.14
- 2027: $103.15 / $156.78
- 2028: $122.14 / $198.10
- 2029: $146.40 / $219.18
- 2030: $176.19 / $235.76
- 2031: $209.91 / $243.64
- 2032: – / $251.79

For a former seasonal account, this is a 127% increase by 2031, from about $1,109 a year to about $2,519 a year before HST. The application says the R2 class completes its move to fully fixed rates in 2032, at $251.79 a month, or more than $3,000 a year just to keep the power connected to a property used for part of the year.

The pattern is already visible on my street. My next-door neighbour on the same lines saw the delivery charge on a winter quarter with zero kWh used rise from $193.24 in 2023 to $272.65 in 2026, a 41% increase in three years for no electricity at all.

MY CONCERNS
1. The size of the increase is unreasonable. More than doubling a fixed charge in five years bears no relation to inflation or to any improvement in the service my property receives.
2. Fully fixed charges punish low use. A seasonal property uses little power for much of the year. Moving to an all-fixed charge means the owner pays the full cost regardless, and conservation no longer lowers the bill.
3. Seasonal owners are left out of rate protection. The Notice of Hearing describes Distribution Rate Protection as keeping delivery charges affordable for year-round low and medium density customers. Seasonal owners on the same rural lines face the largest increases without that relief.
4. Customers are funding a higher return. Hydro One proposes raising its equity thickness from 40% to 45% at the

same time it asks rural and seasonal customers to absorb these increases.

WHAT I ASK THE BOARD TO DO
1. Reject, or substantially reduce, the proposed increases to the Seasonal-R2 and R2 fixed charges, and limit annual increases to a reasonable level tied to inflation.
2. Keep a meaningful usage-based component in low-density rates so customers who use little power pay less.
3. Require Hydro One to state 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 higher equity thickness before passing those costs on to rural and seasonal customers.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Tony Trichilo

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