

From: Mister Abbott
To: <smartmeters@oeb.gov.on.ca>
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Subject: SmartMeter Initiative

Comments on OEB's Smartmeter Initiative

My comments on the OEB's recently announced "smartmeter" initiative are summarized herein.

My comments are made as an individual Ontario retail consumer. I am a customer of Mississauga Hydro (or whatever stylish name they go by) at my home and I also have 2 seasonal residences served by Hydro One Networks. The age of the meters at each service point I'd estimate range from a couple of months, to over 25 years.

While I support the introduction of time-of-use smartmeters at the residential level as a option, please do not make conversion to the new smartmeters mandatory. Also, the incremental cost of those new smartmeters should be borne only by those who receive the benefit. My reasons for this are outlined below.

I cannot achieve sufficient savings to offset the cost. The nature of my work and family commitments, means that there is no time-shifting of electrical energy use that I can do. At my home I have had an energy use monitor on my programmable HVAC thermostat. Over the years I have experimented and tried to reduce my overall energy consumption through different set-back programs. However, what I have found is that in order for me to significantly shift my energy consumption to lower cost hours of the day, I have to over heat or over cool in these lower priced unoccupied times in order to have a reasonable temperature while occupied. Besides causing moisture and structural movement problems, overall this results in an increased energy consumption which would offset all but the most extreme price differentials.

At my seasonal residences, where I could take advantage of time-of-use pricing, because electricity is consumed primarily during lower cost off-peak periods, my consumption of electricity is so little that it is very unlikely I could recover the cost of the smartmeter.

In the case of my octogenarian mother, who even if she could take advantage of time-of-use electricity pricing, realistically, she won't be an electricity customer for long enough to achieve a payback on a smartmeter.

I realize that as more and more customers are converted over to the new smartmeters and take advantage of time-of-use pricing, the average price of electricity for those of us with stupidmeters would increase. This creates a natural incentive for those who can benefit from smartmeters to convert.

It would be unfair to require customers to pay for something which provides no, or a negative, benefit.

I can, however, see that in cases where a meter is replaced, either due to normal recalibration or repair, then presumably the new smartmeter would be the residential "standard" and there should be no incremental installation or

disposal cost for the smartmeter standard over the old non-time-of-use meter.

In these situations replacement with the new standard smartmeter is justified, but at no incremental customer charge, as incrementally, there isn't any.

Provided the blended average cost of energy for those with stupidmeters is truly reflective of the actual average for that group, and there is no subsidy between those with smartmeters and those with stupidmeters, and vice versa, then to have the conversion to a smartmeter at the customer's choice and cost, is equitable and fair.

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