

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) has learned that Hydro One's 150,000 Seasonal Class customers are being notified **this week** about changes to how they're classified by the utility, and impacts on monthly electricity bills. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has determined that Hydro One Networks' Seasonal Rate Class will be eliminated. Each existing Seasonal customer will be moved to one of Hydro One Networks' other three residential rate classes, as noted below.

As FOCA has communicated in the past, with this change almost 80,000 low-use customers will see their monthly bills increase by \$50+/month. FOCA has been an intervenor at the OEB for many years, and has been advocating against this significant bill impact.

The table below from Hydro One Networks shows examples of estimated total monthly bill changes for a seasonal customer after the transition into one of the other three Hydro One Networks residential classes, as well as bill impacts due to completing the ongoing transition to all-fixed electricity distribution rates. Note that the actual change to your bill will depend on your own monthly electricity consumption.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Monthly Consumption (kWh)	2022 Seasonal Status Quo Total Bill	2022 Change in Total Bill for Seasonal Class Moving to All-Fixed Rates		2022 Change in Total Bill due to Eliminating the Seasonal Class					
	\$/month	\$	%	Seasonal Customer Moving to Residential Low Density (R2) Class		Seasonal Customer Moving to Medium Density (R1) Class		Seasonal Customer Moving to Urban High Density (UR) Class	
				\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
50	54.06	6.28	12%	53.79	100%	-5.23	-10%	-24.02	-44%
350	100.20	-1.02	-1%	54.31	54%	-5.48	-5%	-24.62	-25%
1000	200.17	-16.86	-8%	55.44	28%	-6.03	-3%	-25.91	-13%

** To estimate your new total bill at one of the sample consumption levels in column A, begin with the total bill amount in column B, add (or subtract) the amount related to the transition to all-fixed rates in column C, and add (or subtract) the amount in one of columns E, G or I depending on the residential class into which you will be moved. For example, a seasonal customer moving to the low density (R2) class and consuming 1000 kWh monthly would see a new total bill of \$238.75 (200.17-16.86+55.44). (Source: Hydro One Networks)*

The OEB has yet to decide whether this change will take effect on January 1, 2022 or on a later date. Hydro One has proposed rate mitigation measures for customers who are expected to see a total bill increase of more than 10% as a result of moving to another rate class, which would involve phasing in the increase over a number of years.

The OEB will hold a public hearing to consider Hydro One Networks' proposed plan to implement this change. FOCA will participate as an intervenor and will once again be reminding the regulator about the hardship these changes will deliver to so many rural and northern families. However, the OEB has stated that it will not reconsider the decision to eliminate the Seasonal Rate Class in this hearing.

To learn more about FOCA's perspectives on electricity rates and past media coverage, visit www.foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing, or contact our spokesperson listed below.

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