

Title:

Regulatory amendments to O. Reg. 314/15 (Ontario Electricity Support Program) made under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, that would support the implementation of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan.

Description:

The Ministry of Energy's proposed amendments would, if approved, take steps toward increasing the existing Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) credits by 50%, and expand eligibility to some consumers who are not currently eligible for the program.

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Bill or Act:

Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998

Summary of Proposal:

The Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) is an income-tested, application based program that lowers electricity costs for the most vulnerable consumers, providing a credit directly on bills. There are two scales: one with basic credits, and an enhanced credit for Indigenous people or those who use electric heat or certain electrically intensive medical devices.

The Ministry of Energy (ENERGY) has proposed increasing the OESP by 50 per cent, meaning that single, low-income consumers who receive the lowest credit amount would get an increase from \$30 to \$45 per month (\$540 per year, an increase of \$180). For single customers receiving the lowest credit for the enhanced scale, the amount would increase from \$45 to \$68 (\$816 per year, an increase of \$276).

In addition, new household income and size categories would be added to the list of potentially eligible customers. The result is that more Ontarians will be eligible to receive the OESP if they fall under the existing or new categories.

The Ministry is also exploring automatic qualification and credit amounts for customers who are enrolled in other provincial low-income social programs.

Proposed OESP Credit Scales

Household Income (After Tax) Household Size (Number of people living in household)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
< \$28,000	\$45	\$45	\$51	\$57	\$63	\$75	\$75
\$28,001 - \$39,000		\$40	\$45	\$51	\$57	\$63	\$75
\$39,001 - \$48,000			\$35	\$40	\$45	\$51	\$57
\$48,000 - \$52,000					\$35	\$40	\$45

Household Income (After Tax) Household Size (Number of people living in household)
Energy Intensive

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
< \$28,000	\$68	\$68	\$75	\$83	\$90	\$113	\$113
\$28,001 - \$39,000		\$60	\$68	\$75	\$83	\$90	\$113
\$39,001 - \$48,000			\$52	\$60	\$68	\$75	\$83
\$48,000 - \$52,000					\$52	\$60	\$68