

March 2002 Newsletter

Sun Peaks Utilities' Information Meeting



March 30, 2002 – 4:00 p.m. at the Fireside Lodge – Wastewater treatment options at Sun Peaks

An information meeting to discuss wastewater treatment options was announced in the February Utilities newsletter. The meeting is scheduled for March 30 at 4:00 at the Fireside Lodge and the results of the meeting will be published in the April Utilities' bulletin.

Prior to the meeting, the sewage treatment plant will be open for informational tours at 1:00 p.m. and at 2:00 p.m. You can reach the plant by taking the Maintenance Road (west of the Burfield Lift) and following the directional signs. Our tertiary treatment plant was made operational in November of 1999 and has undergone two planned upgrades since that time. We forward test samples to an independent laboratory to monitor the quality of the treatment plant, and are proud that we consistently operate well within guidelines established by the Ministry of the Environment.

A sewer treatment plant design was chosen that could be readily scaled over time to better meet the planned growth of Sun Peaks Resort. Capital cost outlays are borne by the developers and the ratepayers bears the plant operating costs. Therefore, we are looking for your input on operational improvements that are under consideration at this time.

Background

Over the last few months Sun Peaks Utilities has processed a decrease in gas rates of 12-14%. On March 11, 2002, the Comptroller of Water Rights approved our application to further lower water usage rates approximately 2% overall. (see attachment for more details). Adjustments for applicable customers will appear on the April 2002 invoices. We are, however, faced with a decision to increase sewer rates. Though the total utility billing to our customers will decrease, we feel that community input to this sewer rate change is required.

Sun Peaks Utilities operates our Class 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant in compliance with the provincial Waste Management Act and Municipal Sewage Regulation. We truck our treated wastewater to the City of Kamloops who discharge the wastewater into their lagoon system for further treatment and disposal. Under the current treatment process, to operate at a break-even point, Sun Peaks Utilities would need to implement a rate increase of 7%.

In the past, Kamloops did not charge us to accept our sludge, however they are planning to charge us a tipping fee of \$17.60 per cubic meter (cubic meter = 1,000 liters). This is in addition to the current trucking costs of \$280 / load (approximately 5 meters³). We estimate that our bill to ship sludge to the Kamloops' treatment plant this year will be in the range of \$48,000 to \$50,000. The result of these additional costs may necessitate an increase in sewer rates of approximately 15%.

We have been investigating ways to reduce our reliance on trucking and further reduce our operating costs. We believe there is a viable and cost effective option to trucking untreated sludge. Currently, 97% of what is removed by truck is water. We have investigated the relative merits of adding a sludge dewatering system to our current plant to remove up to 30% of the water from the sludge. The resulting product would be taken to the TNRD's solid waste facility initially and once facilities are available at Sun Peaks, future sludge produced at the sewer plant would be composted on-site.

We are hoping you will join us at the community meeting on March 30 so that we may get your input on continuing to truck wastewater to Kamloops, or adding a mechanical system to de-water our waste here and reduce our overall trucking requirements.

If you have any questions on these subjects or any other utility matter, please contact the office at 250-578-5490 or via e-mail at utilities@sunpeaksresort.com.

Sun Peaks Utilities Co., Ltd.

1280 Alpine Road, Sun Peaks, British Columbia, V0E 1Z1

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Sun Peaks Utilities' Water Tariff #3 Approved



On March 11, 2002 the Comptroller of Water Rights approved Sun Peaks Utilities' Revenue Requirements and Water Tariff # 3 and it's rates, terms and conditions. The following is a listing of the rate changes and will start appearing on your April invoices. A full copy of the decision and water tariff is available at Sun Peaks Utilities' offices during business hours or by contacting Mr. Rick Couroux, Secretary to the Comptroller at 250-387-6355 or via email at Rick.Couroux@gems1.gov.bc.ca.

**Order No: 1958 - Appendix "A" - Water Rates
Sun Peaks Utilities Co., Ltd.**

Tariff Schedule	Effective Date	Application	Change
C-1	May 3, 2000	To all customers of the Utility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Minimum monthly metered rate</u>: Decrease from \$7.13 per month to \$6.00 per month. <u>Metered usage rate</u>: Decrease from \$1.4252 per M³ \$1.2000 per M³. <u>Non metered flat monthly charge</u>: Decrease from \$42.76 per month to \$36.00 per month.
C-1	May 1, 2001	To all customers of the Utility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Minimum monthly metered rate</u>: Increase from \$6.00 per month to \$6.40 per month. <u>Metered usage rate</u>: Increase from \$1.2000 per M³ to \$1.2800 per M³. <u>Non metered flat monthly charge</u>: Increase from \$36.00 per month to \$38.40 per month.
C-1	May 1, 2001	Non metered customers of the Utility	Change applicability from "per customer" to "per dwelling unit" and insert definition of "dwelling unit"
C-2	May 1, 2002	To all customers of the Utility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Minimum monthly metered rate</u>: Increase from \$6.40 per month to \$6.80 per month. <u>Metered usage rate</u>: Increase from \$1.2800 per M³ to \$1.3600 per M³. <u>Non metered flat monthly charge</u>: Increase from \$38.40 per month to \$40.80 per month.
E	January 1, 1999	Sun Peaks Resort Improvement District	<u>Fire Protection Tariff</u> \$55,000 per annum, if paid on July 1 st of each year, otherwise \$4,584 per month.
E-1	May 3, 2000	To all customers of the Utility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> May 3, 2000, Annual Rate Rider *, \$2.96 per "bed unit" May 1, 2001, Annual Rate Rider *, \$2.90 per "bed unit" May 1, 2002, Annual Rate Rider *, \$4.31 per "bed unit"
F	May 3, 2000	Irrigation and non-fire protection use of hydrants, metered service rates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Insert Hydrant/Stand Pipe Meter Set Rental</u>: \$5.00 per day. <u>Metered usage rate</u>: Decrease from \$1.4252 per M³ to \$1.2000 per M³, effective May 3, 2000. <u>Metered usage rate</u>: Increase from \$1.2000 per M³ to \$1.2800 per M³, effective May 1, 2001. <u>Metered Usage Rate</u>: Increase from \$1.2800 per M³ \$1.3600 per M³, effective May 1, 2002.
Notes: For applicability, terms and conditions, actual tariff schedules apply -- * Annual Rate Rider is for Fire Protection.			

See attached for information on Sun Peaks Utilities' Open House on Saturday, March 30, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

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