

November 2003 Newsletter



Sun Peaks Utilities applies to have Gas Fuel Costs adjusted to match new supply contract

For the past six years, Sun Peaks Utilities has been working with a large propane-purchasing group comprised of the communities of Whistler, Panorama, Revelstoke and Furry Creek. Fortunately, our supplier, MP Energy was able to secure 1,450,000 litres needed to supply our winter gas requirements at a fixed price starting November 7, 2003.

This year the price of propane did not drop to last year's levels. Like other gas utilities, Sun Peaks Utilities is now applying to the BC Utilities Commission for a rate increase on the commodity costs only to reflect current pricing. No other price changes are being applied for.

The application with the BC Utilities Commission is for approval of our new gas supply contract to purchase 2.8 million litres of propane over the next year. This contract allows Sun Peaks Utilities to fix your fuel price during the upcoming winter, in part by combining fixed and market driven costs for the fuel. This is the type of contract structure that has protected us in the past from the extreme price increases seen by other Utilities' customers.

Currently, the gas commodity charge that appears on your monthly invoice is \$11.1505 per gigajoule. Sun Peaks Utilities has applied to increase this to \$12.6005 (13% over current price) per gigajoule effective January 5, 2004. We are expecting this change to be approved in time to appear on your February 2004 invoices. The following are a few examples of the effect of this application for a rate increase:

Customer Type	Average Gigajoules (Gj) used in 2001	Current Rate per Gj	Proposed Rate per Gj	Average % Increase in Monthly Costs (including Basic & Delivery Charges)
Residential Townhouse	30	\$11.1505	\$12.6005	8%
Single Family Home	75	\$11.1505	\$12.6005	9%
Small Commercial	187	\$11.1505	\$12.6005	10%
Commercial	2,500	\$11.1505	\$12.6005	10%
Large Commercial	5,300	\$11.1505	\$12.6005	10%

For more information on the BC Utilities Commission, please visit their web site at www.bcuc.com or call Sun Peaks Utilities' office at 250-578-5490.

WINTER-WISE GAS METER SAFETY TIPS:

Your outdoor gas meter and equipment are designed to withstand winter weather conditions, but heavy snow, ice or icicles falling from your eaves, and water dripping from your roof and freezing on your meter can present a safety hazard. To avoid problems:

1. **Keep your meter clear of snow and ice**
2. **Keep your eaves troughs clear**
3. **Keep air supply ducts and vents clear**

Why is it so important to keep your meter clear? - Accumulated snow places stress on your meter piping - damage to the piping can cause a gas leak. Blocked vents in your Gas Meter Set may result in abnormal pressure, affect appliance operation, and interrupt gas service.

In case of emergency, emergency response crews need clear access to your meter. If you feel there is a potential problem, please call Sun Peaks Utilities at **250-578-5490 during office hours or after hours; contact the on-call field technician at 250-319-0629.**

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