

November 2004 Newsletter



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

For the past seven years, Sun Peaks Utilities has been working with a large propane-purchasing group comprised of the communities of Whistler, Panorama, Revelstoke and Furry Creek. With the purchasing power of this group, our supplier, MP Energy, was able to secure 1.5 million litres for our winter gas supply at a fixed rate starting November, 2004. This contract allows Sun Peaks Utilities to fix the gas price during the upcoming winter, in part by combining winter fixed price volumes and market driven costs.

The price for this bulk purchase is higher than last year and Sun Peaks Utilities did not benefit from the traditional reduction in market costs over the summer as in previous years. The result is a greater than originally expected increase to your monthly gas cost. We believe that mixing fixed and market driven costs for fuel is still the safest strategy to provide you with a level of certainty on fuel prices this winter. Like other gas utilities, Sun Peaks Utilities applied 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.

Currently the gas commodity charge that appears on your monthly invoice is \$12.6005 per gigajoule. Sun Peaks Utilities has applied to increase this to \$15.3205 per gigajoule effective October 30, 2004. On November 12, 2004, the British Columbia Utilities Commission approved the application and the increase will appear on your December 2004 invoice.

The following are a few examples of the effect of this rate increase effective December 2004:

Customer Type	Average Gigajoules (Gj) used in 2003	Current Rate per Gj	Proposed Rate per Gj	% Increase in Fuel Costs (including Basic & Delivery Charges)
Residential Condominium	30	\$12.6005	\$15.3205	13.1%
Single Family Home	75	\$12.6005	\$15.3205	15.8%
Small Commercial	213	\$12.6005	\$15.3205	16.8%
Commercial	2,000	\$12.6005	\$15.3205	17.1%
Large Commercial	10,000	\$12.6005	\$15.3205	17.7%

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:

- **Keep air supply ducts and vents clear**
- **Keep your eaves troughs clear**
- **Keep your gas meter clear of snow and ice**
- **Keep the path to your gas meter 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 service.

Please remember that in the case of emergency, emergency response crews must have clear access to shut your gas meter off. Because of these safety issues, when the meter reader visits your property, if your meter is not cleared, Sun Peaks Utilities' staff may be required to clear the snow away and the charge for this work (\$50 for the 1st time & \$100 for each additional time) may appear on your next invoice.

If you feel there is a potential problem, please do not hesitate to contact Sun Peaks Utilities at **250-578-5490 during office hours or 250-319-0629 after hours and we will be please to assist you.**

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