

March 2006 – Newsletter

Water Rate Application Approved – Details Below



ICE AND GAS DON'T MIX!

The winter season at Sun Peaks continues to bless us with great snow conditions. However, the freezing and thawing weather does cause problems with ice build up.

Last week, ice did fall off a house and damage the gas meter and piping causing uncontrolled release of gas. With the quick response by the Utility and the Sun Peaks Fire Department, the gas was shut off quickly and no damage to the house resulted. Everyone was very thankful the problem was not worse.

Please remember to keep your gas meter clear of snow and ice. Don't forget overhead ice can fall off your roof and break the meter set causing uncontrolled release of gas. Be careful around your gas meter set. Do not bang the ice off your meter, there is no charge for the Utility to assist you in clearing the snow. *However, if the Utility's staff must clear your gas meter due to meter reading or other safety issues, you will be invoiced \$50 for the 1st time and \$100 for each additional time.*



WATER RATE APPLICATION – Water Tariff # 4 Approved on February 28, 2006

The Utility would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the time they took in providing feedback to the Comptroller and the Utility on this rate application.

A full copy of Water Tariff # 4, the Comptroller of Water Rights' written decision and all of the rate application submissions, meeting minutes, questions from customers and the Utility's responses are available at http://www.sunpeaksutilities.com/water_rateapp.htm. Sun Peaks Utilities' Water Tariff # 4, the Decision by the Comptroller of Water Rights is also available in the Burfield Offices of the Utility.

The key rate changes to the Water Tariff that will affect property owners at Sun Peaks are as follows:

<i>Current Rates</i> (effective May 1, 2002)	<i>Approved Rates</i> (effective December 1, 2006)
Basic Charge is \$6.80 per month (and includes the first 5 cubic meters of usage)	Basic Charge of \$10.00 per month per Single Family Equivalent (SFEU) assigned for all Multi-family and Commercial Complexes. <i>1 SFEU = 6 Bed Units as defined under the BC Alpine Ski Policy</i> Or Basic Charge of \$10.00 per month per Single Family Home's main Dwelling Unit plus a Basic Charge of \$5.00 per month for each Secondary Dwelling Unit located within the same Single Family Property.
Usage Charge – \$1.36 per cubic meter of water used in addition to Base Consumption Allowance (metered usage)	Usage Charge – Effective Dec 1, 2005 – \$1.36 per cubic meter of water used (metered usage) – Effective May 1, 2006 – \$1.34 per cubic meter of water used (metered usage)
Annual Fire Suppression Rider - \$4.31 per bed unit	Annual Fire Suppression Rider - Removed

The March 2006 invoice will include credits for December 2005 and January 2006 for the Fire Suppression Rider and water charges. The invoices will also include retroactive charges for the same period for the Basic Monthly Charge and the metered water usage. Should you have any questions regarding your invoice, please contact the office at utilities@sunpeaksresort.com or via telephone at 250-578-5589.

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Press Release: the Provincial Health Authority for the Cariboo-Thompson Region, Interior Health launched a Public Information Campaign to provide better health protection for customers of water utilities supplied by surface water



Interior Health

(IH) is partnering with surface water systems serving more than 300 connections to launch a Turbidity Education & Notification Campaign to better protect water customers. The campaign is being introduced on March 9, 2006 throughout the area covered by IH. The campaign focuses on establishing public notification standards for water systems which experience elevated turbidity¹. In the past, public notifications such as “boil water advisory” were inconsistent and did not adequately protect health. IH will now be asking water suppliers to issue a “water quality advisory” when water turbidity exceeds 1 NTU².

Contact will be made with Interior Health as the turbidity approaches 5 NTU, which exceeds the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking water Quality*. For more information, visit the Government of Canada’s web site at (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/water-eau/drink-potab/guide/index_e.html).

Sun Peaks Utility obtains its water from water wells completed in aquifers located at depths of 35 – 40 meters (approximately 100 to 120 feet) below ground. Each of the wells produces groundwater with varying levels of turbidity, depending upon the age of the well and pumping activity. The turbidity in the well water is typically less than 1 NTU. Groundwater pumped from the wells is passed through treatment systems that include a sand filter process to improve the aesthetic quality of the water (iron and manganese are removed) and reduce water turbidity. All water is chlorinated prior to entering the water distribution system.

This IH education campaign does not specifically apply to the Sun Peaks Utilities’ water system because our water source is protected groundwater. However, you may want to be aware of the campaign when you travel through other communities in the area. For more information, please see the Interior Health website at www.interiorhealth.ca, or contact Ms. Pat Miller, Manager of Sun Peaks Utility Co. Ltd. at 578-5490.

If you have any questions on these subjects or any other utility matter, please contact the office at 250-578-5490 or visit the web site at www.sunpeaksutilities.com. Copies of past newsletters are posted on the web site.

¹ **Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of water. Water cloudiness is caused by material, such as dirt and residue from leaves, that is suspended (floating) in the water. If you look at a river after a storm, it will be full of sediment and definitely not clear. You’re seeing all of the suspended soil in the water. Usually the materials that cause turbidity in our drinking water either settle out or are filtered before the water arrives in our homes.

² The maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) for turbidity in water entering a distribution system is **1 nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU)**, established on the basis of health considerations. A less stringent value for turbidity in water entering a distribution system may be permitted if it is demonstrated that the system has a history of acceptable microbiological quality and that a higher turbidity value will not compromise disinfection. An aesthetic objective of 5 NTU has been set for water at the point of consumption.