

Utility Newsletter – January 2009

UTILITIES RATE UPDATES



WATER RATE CHANGE – As mentioned in the November and December newsletters, the Comptroller of Water Rights granted the Utility interim approval of its rates effective December 1, 2008 and this change appears on your January 2009 utility invoice.

A copy of the formal notice, the Utility's rate application and the Interim Water Tariff, as required by the Comptroller, are available at the Utility's offices or on the web site at www.sunpeaksutilities.com under "Water".

Customers have until January 31, 2009 to submit any comments or questions to the Comptroller. A copy of any material or questions should also be submitted to the Utility.

WASTEWATER RATE CHANGE – The Wastewater Utility's rate structure is not currently regulated. That being said, the Utility has chosen to follow a similar rate setting process and structure as that of the regulated Water Utility. The new rates are effective December 1, 2008 and this change appears on your January 2009 utility invoice. A copy of the updated Wastewater Tariff is available at the Utility's offices or on the web site at www.sunpeaksutilities.com under "Wastewater".

GAS RATE CHANGE – The Gas Utility's regulator, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) approved the Utility's application for a 19.5% rate increase on the commodity price and a \$0.25/Gj or 10.1% reduction in the Delivery Price. The rates became effective December 1, 2008 and this change appears on your January 2009 utility invoice. A copy of the updated Gas Tariff and a copy of the BCUC's decision are available at the Utility's offices and on the Utility's web site at www.sunpeaksutilities.com under "Gas."

Future Gas Rate Changes – With the continued significant drop in fuel prices, the Utility will be reviewing the commodity price of fuel once the pre-purchased fuel is used up in March 2009 and if appropriate will be applying for a change in the commodity price rather than wait until the Fall as we have done in the past.

WINTER GAS SAFETY TIPS

A Winter Safety Reminder: The winter season is in full swing and we would like to remind you and your guests to keep Gas Winter Safety in mind. Snow and Ice build-up can keep your gas meter set from working properly, so remember to keep your meter free of both.

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. A cover such as a single full sheet of plywood placed at a 45° angle over the meter set can deflect snow and ice while still allowing access to the meter. This simple precaution may prevent a hazardous situation.

If necessary, Sun Peaks Utilities will clear meters of ice, snow or other materials. The Gas Tariff's Terms and Conditions do allow a charge for this work to be added to your monthly Utility bill. The charge for the first time this work is required during a one-year period is \$50 and each additional time is \$100. If you are not sure on how to safely clear your meter, please contact the Utility at 250-578-5490 or 250-319-0638 and we would be pleased to advise you at no charge.

Remember that gas is a safe commodity if treated properly.



"BANKING BY PHONE OR INTERNET" PAYMENT OPTION - The "Banking by Phone or Internet" payment option continues to prove successful for many of our customers. The banks that currently offer this option are: (Contact your local branch for further details.)

Royal Bank
HSBC

Toronto Dominion Bank/
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Bank of Montreal
Bank of Nova Scotia

The Credit Unions of
British Columbia

Don't forget to visit our web site at www.sunpeaksutilities.com for more information on safety, conservation tips, tariffs, rate application and regulatory information.