

# Utility Newsletter - November 2011



**GAS RATE INCREASE** – In May, as part of a required submission to the BCUC, an updated commodity price forecast was provided. This forecast was provided by FortisBC and MP Energy (part of Gibbson Energy). The forecast projected that there would be no price relief through the Summer, and instead, further increases were expected. These projections did come true. Due to these increased commodity gas prices, Sun Peaks Utilities has applied to the BCUC to increase rates in order to recover costs and stabilize the Gas Cost Recovery Account.

The following are examples of the impact of the Commodity Gas Rate applied for to be effective December 1, 2011 (this change if approved by the BC Utilities Commission would appear on your January 2012 Utility bills).

Customer Type	Annual Propane in Gigajoules (Gj) used	Current Commodity Rate per Gj	Proposed Commodity Rate Only per Gj	% Increase in Overall Annual Gas Costs (% includes Basic & Deliver Charges)
Residential Condo	18	\$20.6650	\$23.4050	7.9%
Single Family Home	85	\$20.6650	\$23.4050	10.8%
Small Commercial	354	\$20.6650	\$23.4050	11.5%
Commercial	4,260	\$20.6650	\$23.4050	11.5%
Large Commercial	10,000	\$20.6650	\$23.4050	11.6%

We'll keep you posted with updates in our newsletters. A copy of the full application to the BC Utilities Commission is on our website at [www.sunpeaksutilities.com](http://www.sunpeaksutilities.com) under Gas Tariff & Rates.

We continue to investigate alternatives to eliminate or moderate our dependence on propane. In the past, the business case proved that it would be too costly to bring natural gas to the resort. In light of the current pricing environment, we are updating that business case, to see if there is merit in pursuing it further. We continue to price propane from other refineries to see if there is any room for pricing improvement, as well as benchmark our gas supply contracts against other resorts. At this point, there is no near-term solution to these increasing commodity costs, but we continue to work with the Mountain Resort Municipality of Sun Peaks, Gibbson Petroleum and FortisBC to investigate every possible avenue.

If you are interested in learning more about the background on commodity pricing at Sun Peaks, please visit our website at [www.sunpeaksutilities.com](http://www.sunpeaksutilities.com) and click on Newsletters tab and look up the June 2011 newsletter.

**WINTER METER SAFETY** – The winter season is around the corner and we would like to remind you and your guests to keep Gas Safety in mind. Snow and ice building up can keep your gas meter set from working properly. So please remember to keep your meter clear of both.

**Why is it important to keep your meter clear?** Accumulated snow places stress on your gas meter piping. Damage to the piping can cause a gas leak. Blocked vents in you Gas Meter Set may result in abnormal pressures, affecting appliance's normal operation and possibly interrupt service.

If your Gas Meter Set is in an area that is subject to snow and ice building up, you may want to place a sheet of plywood placed at a 45 degree angle over the Gas Meter Set to deflect the accumulation and still allow access to the Meter Set. This simple precaution may prevent a hazardous situation.

If deemed necessary to ensure safe operation, Sun Peaks Utilities' staff will clear the meter of ice, snow and other materials. The Gas Tariff's Terms and Conditions allow the Utility to charge for this work and add it to your monthly Utility invoice. **The charge for the first time this work is performed during a one-year period is \$50.00 and each additional time is \$100.00.**



If you are not sure on how to safely clear your Gas Meter Set, please contact the Utility at 250-578-5490 (press 1) or after-hours 250-319-0629 and we would be pleased to help you at no charge. Fridge Magnets that can be left in your unit with Utility contact information, are available free of charge at the Utility's Burfield Offices between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Remember that gas is a safe commodity if treated and used properly. **If you do detect a gas odour (similar to rotten eggs), please call our emergency number at 250-319-0629. If you are not able to reach the Utility's on-call technician, PLEASE CALL 911.**