



NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH, on behalf of the existing two water utilities (Fringe Area and Lower South River and Area) to amalgamate the two utilities into one utility named the Antigonish County Water Utility and to apply for an Order authorizing and approving a new Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and a Schedule of Rules and Regulations

This matter will be considered in a public hearing as follows:

**Hearing starts: Wednesday, October 21, 2020
 10:30 a.m.**

**The Municipality of the County of Antigonish
Council Chambers
285 Beech Hill Road
Antigonish, Nova Scotia**

Depending on the circumstances related to Covid-19, this public hearing may be held by video conference and/or teleconference.

Board Hearings are open to the public and you may participate as follows:

- You may speak at the hearing. You must notify the Board by **Thursday, October 15, 2020**
- You may make written comments by sending a letter to the Clerk of the Board at P.O. Box 1692, Unit "M", Halifax, NS B3J 3S3, or by email at: board@novascotia.ca, or by fax at (902) 424-3919 by **Thursday, October 15, 2020**
- You may request formal standing as an Intervener, subject to Board approval. This will allow you to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses. Your request must be received by the Board by **Friday August 14, 2020** and a copy of your written evidence by **Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

Additional information about the matter is as follows:

a) Effective 2020/21

Utility	Meter Size	Average Current Bi-Monthly Water Bill (\$)	Average Proposed Bi-Monthly Water Bill (\$)	% Increase/Decrease
Fringe Area	Unmetered	73.35	86.85	18.4%
	5/8" (residential)	75.35	79.79	5.9%
	3/4"	84.15	103.12	22.6%
	1"	247.51	355.48	43.6%
	1.5"	425.73	592.67	39.2%
	2"	613.55	832.74	35.7%
	3"	1,017.65	1,307.53	28.5%
Lower South River and Area	Unmetered	119.97	86.85	-27.6%
	5/8" (residential)	119.97	73.56	-38.7%
	3/4"	149.75	103.26	-31.0%
	1"	375.46	310.82	-17.2%
	1.5"	533.44	380.73	-28.6%
	2"	1,005.32	776.58	-22.8%
	3"	4,219.55	3,993.64	-5.4%

b) Effective 2021/22

For the proposed Antigonish County Water Utility, for a 5/8" residential customer, the average bi-monthly water bill is proposed to increase from \$73.56 to \$81.69 (an 11.0% increase) in 2021/22. For the other metered services, the proposed average bi-monthly water bill amendments range from -50.5% to 39.3%. The unmetered rate is proposed to increase by 3.6%.

c) Effective 2022/23

For the proposed Antigonish County Water Utility, for a 5/8" residential customer, the average bi-monthly water bill is proposed to increase from \$81.69 to \$83.97 (a 2.8% increase) in 2022/23. For the other metered services, the proposed average bi-monthly water bill increases range from 3.6% to 4.2%. The unmetered rate is proposed to increase by 3.8%. It is proposed that the Utility will be fully metered in 2022/23.

d) Amendments are further proposed to the public fire protection charge to the Municipality. The current annual fire protection charges of the existing water utilities of the Fringe Area and Lower South River and Area have a combined total of \$302,414. It is proposed to increase to \$416,630 (a 37.8% increase) in 2020/21; \$461,969 (a 10.9% increase) in 2021/22; and \$487,695 (a 5.6% increase) in 2022/23.

Upon reviewing the Application, the Board, in its Decision, may determine that the proposed amendments should be as requested, higher, or lower.

A copy of the Application and any timetable applying to this matter may be viewed at the Offices of the Board, Summit Place, 1601 Lower Water Street, 3rd Floor, Halifax, NS, or on the Board's website at <https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/>, by clicking on "Matters & Evidence", and in the "Go To Files and Documents", enter Matter No. **M09784**, and at the **Municipality of the County of Antigonish, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish, Nova Scotia**