

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION by the **Village of Canning, on behalf of its Water Utility**, for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and its Schedule of Rules and Regulations

INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **Ms. Ruth Pearson**
Clerk Treasurer
The Village Commissioners of Canning
Box 9, 989 North Avenue
Canning, NS B0P 1H0

From: **Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board**

Responses Due by: February 28, 2011

Questions:

- IR-1 Please briefly describe the Utility's current system (i.e. Source of supply, treatment, storage, transmission and distribution).
- IR-2 Please provide the status of the Kingsport expansion project. Please also describe the impact that this project will have on the Utility's current system (i.e. impact on existing customers, source of supply capacity utilization, etc.).
- IR-3 Please provide the projected operating and capital fund balance sheets for each of the test years of the Rate Study based upon the assumptions of the Rate Study.
- IR-4 During the last Rate Application in 2008, reference was made to the Utility's System Assessment Report that specified initiatives needed to meet requirements of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment's *Drinking Water Strategy*, involving capital projects approved by the Board.

- a) Please provide the status of these initiatives
- b) Have all of the recommendations of the System Assessment Report been addressed at this time? If not, please identify any remaining work to be done (cost, timing).

IR-5 Has the Utility received any complaints with respect to water quality and/or water pressure since the last rate application? If so, please provide details of complaints and corrective measures undertaken.

IR-6 Please file a copy of the Utility's financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2010.

IR-7 to IR-10 relate to Worksheet B-1 of the Rate Study:

IR-7 Please provide an explanation for each of the following operating expenses:

- a) the significant increase in power and pumping expense from \$13,511 in 2009/10 to \$17,012 in 2010/11 (a 25.9% increase);
- b) the significant increase in water treatment expense from \$20,474 in 2009/10 to \$25,858 in 2010/11 (a 26.3% increase);
- c) the increase in transmission and distribution expense from \$25,266 in 2009/10 to \$26,946 in 2010/11 (a 6.7% increase); and
- d) the significant increase in the administration and general expense from \$58,711 in 2009/10 to \$66,797 in 2010/11 (a 13.8% increase).

IR-8 a) What does the existing debt relate to?

b) When will the existing debt be retired? Please provide a debt repayment schedule

IR-9 What is the basis for the amounts of the planned Dividends to Owner of \$8,000 in 2012/13 and \$25,000 in 2013/14?

IR-10 Please provide the Utility's expenditures and revenues thus far in the 2010/11 fiscal year, in a format similar to this worksheet.

IR-11 to IR-13 relate to Worksheet B-2a/2b/2c/2d/2e of the Rate Study:

IR-11 Please briefly describe the Utility's current budgeting process.

IR-12 Please explain how costs are allocated between the Village and the Utility.

IR-13 Please provide the same breakdown of operating expenses as presented in this worksheet for 2009/10.

IR-14 and IR-15 relate to Worksheet B-3 of the Rate Study:

IR-14 Please provide project details regarding the Utility's proposed three year capital budget in the amounts of \$2,488,922 in 2011/12, \$12,000 in 2012/13 and \$12,000 in 2013/14.

IR-15 Please comment on the status of the Utility's metering program in light of the amounts included in the proposed capital budget and the few remaining unmetered customers.

IR-16 relates to Worksheet B-4 of the Rate Study:

IR-16 In the Capital Contributions of \$660,000 in 2010/11 and \$2,476,922 in 2011/12, please identify and confirm the source of these amounts.

IR-17 relates to Worksheet C-1 of the Rate Study:

IR-17 Does the Utility currently provide and plan to continue to provide adequate fire protection? If not, please describe any plans to improve the available public fire protection.

IR-18 relates to Worksheet C-2 of the Rate Study:

IR-18 Please show the calculations for the line item identified as 'less unamortized amount of capital contribution for plant in service' for each of the years indicated.

IR-19 relates to Worksheet C-3 of the Rate Study:

IR-19 Are the percentage allocations of cost elements the same as was used in the Utility's last rate study in 2008?

IR-20 relates to Worksheet C-6 of the Rate Study:

IR-20 What is the approximate amount of non-revenue water in the system? Please describe the situation before and after the Kingsport expansion.

IR-21 relates to Worksheet D-1 of the Rate Study:

IR-21 Has the Utility received any feedback from customers with respect to the magnitude of the proposed increases? If so, please detail the feedback received.

IR-22 and IR-23 relate to the proposed Schedule of Rates contained in the Rate Study:

IR-22 Please list any new and/or revised charges relative to the current Schedule of Rates and Charges and provide an explanation for each.

IR-23 Has the Utility received any feedback from customers with respect to the proposed changes? If so, please detail the feedback received.

IR-24 and IR-25 relate to the proposed Schedule of Rules and Regulations contained in the Rate Study:


IR-24 The current Schedule of Rules and Regulations have been unchanged since January 1, 2005. Please detail the proposed changes, including deletions and additions, to the current Schedule of Rules and Regulations and provide an explanation for each.

IR-25 Has the Utility received any feedback from customers with respect to the proposed changes? If so, please detail the feedback received.

Copies: 5

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Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 4th day of February, 2011.


Clerk of the Board