



Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

Mailing address

PO Box 1692, Unit "M"
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Office

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1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3P6
902 424-4448 t
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August 30, 2007

By Fax Only: 453-4566

Graham Steele, MLA
Halifax Fairview
House of Assembly Nova Scotia
7071 Bayers Road, Suite 319A
Halifax, NS B3L 2C2

Dear Mr. Steele:

Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure - BRD-GEN

This is further to your letter dated August 7, 2007 and my reply of August 9, 2007.

The Board very much appreciates your comments and suggestions. You recommend that if a proposed Rule change will have a special impact on a small number of customers they should specifically be notified.

Normally those circumstances are identified early in any proceeding through a review of the application and the interrogatory process and the utility is directed by the Board to provide such a notice. This will be more closely monitored in the future.

You may have seen advertising in newspapers recently with respect to HRWC's application for approval of rates and rules for the supply of wastewater and stormwater services. A copy of the notice is attached. In that notice specific reference is made to the issue you have identified. HRWC has been directed to provide notice to the Condominium Corporations affected. A copy of the Board's letter dated August 8, 2007 is attached.

Yours very truly,

Nancy McNeil
Regulatory Affairs Officer/Clerk

Enclosures (2)

cc: Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager
Halifax Regional Water Commission

Fax: 490-6939



Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

Notice of PUBLIC HEARING

The **Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC)** has made application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (Board) for Approval of a Schedule of Rates and Charges and Schedules of Rules and Regulations for the **Supply of Wastewater and Stormwater Services**

Commencing: Tuesday, October 23, 2007
9:00 a.m.

Place: Offices of the Board
Summit Place
Suite 300, 1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, NS

ALL PERSONS are entitled to attend the hearing.

ANYONE WISHING TO MAKE COMMENTS may do so at the hearing or by forwarding a letter to the Clerk of the Board at Box 1692, Unit "M", Halifax, N.S. B3J 3S3, or by calling the Clerk at 424-4448, or e-mail: uarb.board@gov.ns.ca or fax 424-3919.

ANYONE WISHING TO HAVE FORMAL STANDING to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses should file notice of such intention with the Board not later than **Thursday, September 6, 2007**.

PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK INFORMALLY AT THE HEARING are requested to advise the Board anytime prior to **Friday, October 12, 2007**, to assist the Board in its scheduling arrangements. It may be necessary to schedule an evening session if members of the public cannot be accommodated during regular hearing hours.

DETAILS OF THE APPLICATION : This application is made following recent changes to the *Halifax Regional Water Commission Act* which provide that a sewer system owned and operated by HRWC is deemed a public utility and therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the Board. On August 1, 2007, Halifax Regional Municipality ("HRM") transferred its sewer system and sewage treatment facilities to HRWC.

The rates HRWC has asked the Board to approve are identical to the rates charged by HRM prior to August 1, 2007 for wastewater and stormwater services including increases previously approved by HRM scheduled to take place October 1, 2007 and October 1, 2008. The Schedule of Rules and Regulations are new and are required to provide the terms and conditions of this wastewater and stormwater service.

Included in the Schedule of Rates are provisions concerning the establishment of a water, wastewater and stormwater capital contribution charge. These provisions will be of particular interest to property developers.

HRWC in its regulations has proposed that the bills for wastewater service and stormwater service to a condominium unit, will be rendered to the condominium corporation in which the unit is situated and the condominium corporation shall be deemed the customer of record and shall be liable for payment of the bill for the condominium unit.

A copy of the application may be viewed at the offices of the Board and at the office of the Halifax Regional Water Commission located at 450 Cowie Hill Road, Halifax, NS, telephone 490-4812.



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August 8, 2007

By Email Only

Mr. John MacPherson, Q.C.
McInnes Cooper
1300 - 1969 Upper Water Street
Purdy's Wharf Tower II
P. O. Box 730
Halifax, NS B3J 2V1

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

**Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC) - W-HRWC-R-07
Application for Approval of a Schedule of Rates and Charges and Schedule of Rules and
Regulations for the Provision of Wastewater/Stormwater Services**

Attached is a Notice of Hearing, in the matter of the above-noted hearing to be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. In such Notice it states:

HRWC in its regulations has proposed that the bills for wastewater service and stormwater service to a condominium unit, will be rendered to the condominium corporation in which the unit is situated and the condominium corporation shall be deemed the customer of record and shall be liable for payment of the bill for the condominium unit.

The Board directs HRWC to advise the 13 condominium corporations affected by the proposed regulations by providing these corporations with the appropriate documentation, together with a copy of the attached Notice of Hearing.

Yours truly,

Nancy McNeil
Regulatory Affairs Officer/Clerk

Attachment

cc. Carl Yates, General Manager, HRWC
Blaine Rooney, Secretary Treasurer, HRWC
S. Bruce Outhouse, Q.C., Board Counsel
Bill Gates, Consultant
Gerry Isenor, Consultant

By email
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