

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
NEVA FALLS WATER CO-OP
PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER WATER UTILITY TO THE
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WHITEMOUTH**

October 26, 2017

Neva Falls Water Co-op (Neva Falls) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval to transfer ownership of the water utility currently owned by Neva Falls to the Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility) of the Rural Municipality of Whitemouth (RM).

The proposal is to transfer Neva Falls' water distribution system to the RM and for the RM to take over the operation of the water distribution system.

Once Board approval has been received, Neva Falls customers will be connected and will be customers of the RM's Utility. They will be serviced with treated water by the Utility and charged Utility rates approved by the PUB.

The RM currently has a pending application for revised rates before the Board (By-Law 656/16). The current and proposed rates of the RM and the Neva Falls rates are as follows:

Neva Falls Rates*		RM of Whitemouth Rates**		
			Current By-Law 539/10	Proposed Rates By-Law 656/16
Water \$/1,000 gallons	\$ 2.50	Water \$/cubic meter	\$ 2.73	\$ 3.30
Service charge (monthly)	\$ 60.00	Service charge (quarterly)	\$ 19.17	\$ 18.68
		Minimum quarterly charge***	\$ 56.03	\$ 64.88

*Neva Falls customers are charged by gallons instead of cubic meters

**RM of Whitemouth customers are charged by cubic meters

***Based on 14 cubic meters

NOTE: 1,000 IGAL=4.546m³

Until the old meters (reading in IGAL) are replaced with RM meters (reading in cubic meters), the imperial gallons will be converted to cubic meters and billed at the RM's water rates.

Neva Falls customers are water only customers.

Details of Neva Falls' application are available for review at the RM's office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for transfer of ownership, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the RM or Neva Falls.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the application for transfer of ownership please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. *Please note all comments will be forwarded to the RM/Neva Falls.*

Questions or comments should be sent on or before November 27, 2017.

The Public Utilities Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board also must approve all transfers of ownership for utilities. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing an application to the Board requesting approval to transfer ownership,
- the public notification of proposed changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process, and the issuance of a Board Order which outlines the Board's decision on the application.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has recently issued privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The PUB is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the PUB advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are reduced.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on the application.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca

"Original Signed By:"

Rachel McMillin, B.Sc.

Assistant Associate Secretary

Manitoba Public Utilities Board