

Order No. 132/16

**ORDER VARYING BOARD ORDER No. 21/16
FOR RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MOUNTAIN
BIRCH RIVER UTILITY
INTERIM *EX PARTE* WATER and WASTEWATER RATES**

October 14, 2016

BEFORE: The Hon. Anita Neville, P.C., B.A. (Hons.), Acting Chair

Carol Hainsworth, C.B.A., Member

Summary

The Rural Municipality of Mountain (RM) requested that the Public Utilities Board (PUB or Board) reconsider the effective date of the commodity based charges for the Birch River Utility (Utility) set in Board Order No. 21/16.

After review, the PUB varies Board Order No.21/16 to state that the commodity based charges are to come into effect the quarter following completion of the metering project, with no less than 30 days notice to ratepayers.

Background

On February 16, 2016 the Board issued Order 21/16 setting interim rates effective April 1, 2016, October 1, 2016 and July 1, 2017 and 2018.

The rates set for April 1, 2016 were set on a flat rate basis using residential equivalency units, with the remaining rates being set on a commodity (or per cubic meter) basis, in anticipation of the completion of a metering project in the community.

Request to Review and Vary

October 5, 2016 the RM advised the Board that the metering project has not been completed and likely won't be until the spring of 2017. The RM requested that the PUB amend the effective date of the commodity based rates approved in Board Order No. 21/16 to be effective following completion of the metering project, rather than on a specific date.

Board Findings

After considering the information filed and Board Order 21/16, the Board approves the RM's request to vary the effective date of the commodity based rates for the Birch River Utility. Board Order No. 21/16 is to be varied to state that the commodity based charges are to come into effect the quarter following completion of the metering project, with no less than 30 days notice to ratepayers.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pub.gov.mb.ca.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Schedule "A" of the Public Utilities Board Order No. 21/16 BE AND IS HEREBY VARIED to state that the flat rates approved effective April 1, 2016 shall remain in effect until the quarter following completion of the metering project, with no less than 30 days notice to ratepayers.
2. The Rural Municipality of Mountain must advise the Public Utilities Board of the completion of the metering project, the subsequent effective date of the commodity rates and provide a copy of the notice given to ratepayers.
3. The Rural Municipality of Mountain amend its water and wastewater by-law for the Birch River utility to reflect the decisions in this Order and submit a copy once it has received third and final reading.

Fees payable upon this Order – \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"The Hon. ANITA NEVILLE, P.C., B.A. (Hons.)"

Acting Chair

"JENNIFER DUBOIS, CPA, CMA"

Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 132/16
issued by The Public Utilities Board

Acting Secretary