

**Order No. 121/17**

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GREY  
GREY REGIONAL WATER and SEWER UTILITY  
APPROVAL TO WITHDRAW RATE APPLICATION**

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**November 6, 2017**

BEFORE: Carol Hainsworth, C.B.A., Panel Chair  
Allan Morin, B.A., (Econ), ICD.D, Member

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves a request to withdraw the current rate application made by the Rural Municipality of Grey (RM), for the Grey Regional Water and Sewer Utility (Utility).

Rationale for the Board's decisions may be found under "Board Findings".

## 2.0 Application

The RM purchases water from two water co-operatives, the Pembina Valley Water Co-op and the Cartier Regional Water Co-op. The Pembina Valley Water Co-op (PVWC) was granted revised water rates in Board Order 3/14, which stated it may increase the approved rate by up to 3% in 2015 and up to 2% per year for 2016 and 2017. The Board Order also approved the listed member municipalities, of which the RM of Grey is a member, to allow these communities to increase their water rates to reflect a "pass through" of the increased rate from PVWC without seeking additional approval of the Board. The RM advised that pass through rates were in effect for 2017, an increase of \$0.16/1,000 gallons.

The Cartier Regional Water Co-operative (CRWC) is under the jurisdiction of the Manitoba Water Services Board and therefore any municipally owned public utility seeking a pass through rate increase would have to apply to the Board for review. In a letter dated November 21, 2016 the RM was advised that the Cartier Regional Water Co-operative was increasing the wholesale water rate effective April 1, 2017.

On May 15, 2017, the RM made a request to the Board for a pass through water and wastewater rates, in the amount of \$0.13/1,000 gallons, for the Grey Regional Water and Sewer Utility. This request was made to the Board because of the increase in wholesale water rates from CRWC. Also submitted with this request was By-law No. 03-2017, having had first reading on March 15, 2017, and a copy of the letter from the CRWC advising of the increased rates.

After reviewing the request for pass through rates from CRWC and the previous pass through rate increase from PVWC with Board staff, the RM requested the Board's approval to withdraw this request. The RM advised that the previous pass through rates from PVWC are adequate and will not pursue another pass through rate for CRWC. The RM has also informed the Board that the RM has started its new rate study application and any rate increases will be covered in the report.

On September 20, 2017, the RM sent an email to the Board accompanied by Resolution No. 340/17 stating its intent to formally withdraw the pass through rate application.

### **3.0 Board Findings**

The Board approves the RM's request to withdraw the rate application as it finds the rationale reasonable.

As per Board Order 92/15 the RM is to review its water and wastewater rates for adequacy and file a report with the Board along with an application for revised rates if required by no later than April 30, 2018, which remains in effect.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with 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. The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

#### 4.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Rural Municipality of Grey's request for withdrawal of the request for pass through water and wastewater rates for the Grey Regional Water and Sewer Utility, is HEREBY APPROVED.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"Carol Hainsworth, C.B.A."  
Panel Chair

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Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 121/17 issued  
by The Public Utilities Board

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Acting Secretary