

NOVEMBER 2020

# NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION BY EPCOR WATER (WEST) INC.

## PROPOSING NEW RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021

Notice is hereby given that EPCOR Water (West) Inc. (EWW) has filed an application to the Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights for approval under the provisions of the Water Utility Act and the Utilities Commission Act to set rates and charges for the upcoming 2021-2023 rate period. In its application, EWW requests approval of adjustments to its water rates to carry out its scheduled operating, maintenance and capital programs. These operating activities and capital investment projects will allow the Utility to continue providing safe and reliable water service to its customers.

The proposed water rates reflect no general increase or decrease to rates for each customer class. Rate riders applied in 2021-2023 are also proposed to refund outstanding balances in EWW's deferral accounts for the 2018-2020 period. These deferral accounts were approved by Order No. 2528 on June 21, 2018.

EWW has also proposed an adjustment to its lowest rate tier from 15 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) - 75 m<sup>3</sup> to 12 m<sup>3</sup> - 75 m<sup>3</sup>, which would result in a reduction to the monthly base rates. If approved, the reduction to the minimum rate tier from 15 m<sup>3</sup> per month to 12 m<sup>3</sup> will mean that a customer consuming less than 15 m<sup>3</sup> per month will see a net reduction in their overall bill over the 2021-2023 period. A customer consuming more than 15m<sup>3</sup> per month will see a small increase in their bill over the same period.

For a customer consuming 20 m<sup>3</sup> per month, the proposed adjustments to the 2021-2023 rates and rate riders will result approximately in a \$1.74/month decrease in 2021, a \$1.53/month increase in 2022 and a \$1.62/month increase in 2023. A summary of the proposed rates and rate riders is provided below.

### Average residential customer monthly bill (based on an average consumption of 20 m<sup>3</sup> per month)

| PROPOSED METERED RATES FOR 2021-2023                             |                |                |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | Existing Rates | Proposed Rates | Proposed Rates | Proposed Rates |
|  | 2020           | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           |
| <b>RESIDENTIAL UNITS – MONTHLY CHARGE</b>                        |                |                |                |                |
| First 12 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider)                        |                | \$43.45        | \$43.45        | \$43.45        |
| Rate rider   |                | -3.48          | -2.35          | -1.13          |
| First 15 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider)                        | \$46.30        |                |                |                |
| Rate rider   | 0              | -0.15          | -0.1           | -0.05          |
| For each m <sup>3</sup> over 12 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider) |                | 1.93           | 1.93           | 1.93           |
| For each m <sup>3</sup> over 15 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider) | 1.93           |                |                |                |
| Rate rider   | 0              | -0.15          | -0.1           | -0.05          |
| <b>MULTI-RESIDENTIAL UNITS – MONTHLY CHARGE PER UNIT</b>         |                |                |                |                |
| First 12 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider)                        |                | 39.53          | 39.53          | 39.53          |
| Rate rider   |                | -3.17          | -2.14          | -1.03          |
| First 15 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider)                        | 42.23          |                |                |                |
| Rate rider   | 0              | -0.15          | -0.1           | -0.05          |
| For each m <sup>3</sup> over 12 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider) |                | 1.93           | 1.93           | 1.93           |
| For each m <sup>3</sup> over 15 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider) | 1.93           |                |                |                |
| Rate rider   | 0              | -0.15          | -0.1           | -0.05          |

| <b>COMMERCIAL UNITS – MONTHLY CHARGE</b>                         |        |        |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| First 12 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider)                        |        | 38.39  | 38.39  | 38.39  |
| Rate rider   |        | -3.07  | -2.07  | -1     |
| First 15 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider)                        | 40.34  |        |        |        |
| Rate rider   | 0      | -0.08  | -0.05  | -0.02  |
| For each m <sup>3</sup> over 12 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider) |        | 0.96   | 0.96   | 0.96   |
| For each m <sup>3</sup> over 15 m <sup>3</sup> (plus rate rider) | 0.96   |        |        |        |
| Rate rider   | 0      | -0.08  | -0.05  | -0.02  |
| <b>FIRE HYDRANT AND STANDPIPE RATES</b>                          |        |        |        |        |
| Hydrants, per hydrant, per annum (plus rate rider)*              | 582.84 | 582.84 | 582.84 | 582.84 |
| Rate rider, per hydrant, per annum                               | 0      | -46.67 | -31.49 | -15.16 |
| Standpipes, per standpipe, per annum (plus rate rider)           | 233.14 | 233.14 | 233.14 | 233.14 |
| Rate rider, per standpipe, per annum                             | 0      | -18.67 | -12.59 | -6.06  |
| <b>AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE CHARGE PER RENT CHARGE AGREEMENTS</b> |        |        |        |        |
| Annual Charge  | 388.96 | 365.01 | 365.01 | 365.01 |

*\*charged to the Regional District of Nanaimo*

This Notice of Application is provided by mail to all of EWW's customers in lieu of a notice in the local newspapers to ensure that all existing customers are informed of the application. A copy of the application is available for public review on EPCOR's website at [www.epcor.com/frenchcreek](http://www.epcor.com/frenchcreek)

Any person wishing further information about the proposed rates can contact:

**Service Manager**

EPCOR Water (West) Inc.  
 #10-D 1343 Alberni Highway, Pine Tree Centre  
 Parksville, BC V9P 2B9  
 Fax: 250-954-0361  
 Email: [regulatorywater@epcor.com](mailto:regulatorywater@epcor.com)

In accordance with the attached Notice of Written Hearing Process (Appendix B to Order No. 2572) issued by the Office of the Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights, comments on the application are to be forwarded to Chris McMillan, Secretary to the Comptroller of Water Rights, on or before December 18, 2020, with a copy to EPCOR Water (West) Inc. at [regulatorywater@epcor.com](mailto:regulatorywater@epcor.com). Persons who wish to actively participate in the proceeding should register as interveners in writing to the Secretary to the Comptroller of Water Rights by December 4, 2020. For further information on this regulatory proceeding and schedule including Order No. 2572, please refer to EWW's website at [www.epcor.ca/frenchcreek](http://www.epcor.ca/frenchcreek).

By direction of the Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights, comments and intervener registrations can be forwarded to:

**Chris McMillan, Secretary to the Comptroller of Water Rights**

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
 PO Box 9340 Stn Provincial Government, Victoria, BC V8W 9M1  
 or by email: [Chris.McMillan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.McMillan@gov.bc.ca)