



NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE TOWN OF PICTOU, on behalf of its **WATER UTILITY** has applied for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and amendments to its Schedule of Rules and Regulations

This matter will be considered in a public hearing as follows:

**Hearing starts: Wednesday, April 10, 2024
10:30 a.m.**

**Town of Pictou Council Chambers
71 Front Street
Pictou, Nova Scotia**

Depending on the circumstances (such as COVID-19), this public hearing may be held by GoToWebinar video conferencing.

Board Hearings are open to the public and you may participate as follows:

- You may speak at the hearing. You must notify the Board by **Wednesday, April 3, 2024.**
- You may make written comments by sending a letter to the Clerk of the Board at P.O. Box 1692, Unit "M", Halifax, NS B3J 3S3, or by email at: board@novascotia.ca, or by fax at (902) 424-3919 by **Wednesday, April 3, 2024.**
- You may request formal standing as an Intervener, subject to Board approval. This will allow you to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses. Your request must be received by the Board by **Monday, February 5, 2024** and a copy of your written evidence by **Monday, March 11, 2024.**

Additional information about the matter is as follows:

For the unmetered rate, the current quarterly water bill is \$207.25, and it is proposed to increase to \$244.28 (a 17.9% increase) in 2024/25; \$271.61 (an 11.2% increase) in 2025/26; and \$277.85 (a 2.3% increase) in 2026/27.

For a 5/8 meter, residential customer, the average current quarterly water bill is \$144.97, and it is proposed to increase to \$163.54 (a 12.8% increase) in 2024/25; \$177.07 (an 8.3% increase) in 2025/26; and \$178.19 (a 0.6% increase) in 2026/27.

The Utility is also requesting increases for other metered services ranging from 13.5% to 17.6% in 2024/25; 8.8% to 11.1% in 2025/26; and 1.1% to 2.2% in 2026/27.

The annual fire protection charge paid by the Town, currently \$326,844, is proposed to increase to \$376,538 (a 15.2% increase) in 2024/25; \$437,484 (a 16.2% increase) in 2025/26; and \$456,592 (a 4.4% increase) in 2026/27.

Upon reviewing the Application, the Board, in its Decision, may determine that the proposed amendments should be as requested, higher, or lower.

A copy of the Application and any timetable applying to this matter may be viewed on the Board's website at <https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/>, by clicking on "Matters & Evidence", and in the "Go To Files and Documents", enter Matter No. **M11484**.

To assist the Board in using correct forms of address and pronouns in our hearings and decisions, we invite all parties, lawyers, and all other participants to share their pronouns and titles with the Board and each other if they are comfortable doing so. There is no requirement to provide this information.