



NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY, on behalf of the existing two water utilities (Windsor and West Hants) applied to amalgamate the two utilities into one utility named the West Hants Regional Water Utility and for an Order authorizing and approving a new Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and a Schedule of Rules and Regulations

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

**Hearing starts: Thursday, May 23, 2024
10:30 a.m.**

**Council Chambers
76 Morrison Drive
Windsor, 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, May 1, 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, May 1, 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, March 4, 2024** and a copy of your written evidence by **Wednesday, April 10, 2024.**

Additional information about the matter is as follows:

a) Effective 2024/25

Utility	Meter Size	Average Current Quarterly Water Bill (\$)	Average Proposed Quarterly Water Bill (\$)	% Increase
West Hants	5/8"	140.65	163.93	16.6%
	3/4"	251.67	289.26	14.9%
	1"	561.89	635.22	13.1%
	1.5"	1,124.31	1,269.79	12.9%
	2"	1,873.68	2,111.77	12.7%
	3"	6,016.59	6,674.39	10.9%
	4"	2,634.62	3,116.55	18.3%
Windsor	5/8"	125.15	178.99	43.0%
	3/4"	294.41	463.70	57.5%
	1"	419.09	647.99	54.6%
	1.5"	949.90	1,503.32	58.3%
	2"	2,351.11	3,906.11	66.1%
	3"	1,322.74	1,732.04	30.9%
	4"	6,468.25	10,636.62	64.4%

b) Effective 2025/26

For the proposed West Hants Regional Water Utility, for the 5/8" customers, the quarterly water bill is proposed to decrease from \$178.99 to \$178.60 (a 0.2% decrease) in 2025/26. For the 3/4" customer, there is no proposed change for the average quarterly water bill in 2025/26. For the other metered services, the proposed average quarterly water bill changes range from a decrease of 31.5% to an increase of 157.1% in 2025/26.

c) Effective 2026/27

For the proposed West Hants Regional Water Utility, for the 5/8" customers, the quarterly water bill is proposed to decrease from \$178.60 to \$176.20 (a 1.3% decrease). For the other metered services, the proposed average quarterly water bill increases range from 1.9% to 3.3% in 2026/27.

d) Amendments are further proposed to the public fire protection charge to the Municipality. The current annual fire protection charges by each of the existing water utilities of Windsor and West Hants to the Municipality and the public fire protection received by other parties by the Municipality have an estimated combined total of \$1,070,092. It is proposed to increase to \$1,434,006 (a 34% increase) in 2024/25; \$1,729,659 (a 21% increase) in 2025/26; and \$1,760,699 (a 2% 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. **M11538**.

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.