

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by the **DIGBY WATER COMMISSION** for Approval of Amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and its Schedule of Rules and Regulations

BEFORE:  Kulvinder S. Dhillon, P.Eng., Member

ORDER

WHEREAS the Digby Water Commission ("Utility"), made an Application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board ("Board") for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for water and water services and its Schedule of Rules and Regulations;

AND WHEREAS after due public notice, a hearing was held on the 26th day of April, 2013, and the Board was pleased to issue its Decision on the 19th day of June, 2013;

AND WHEREAS no amendments have been made to the Schedule of Rules and Regulations, which remain effective June 1, 2010;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Schedule of Rates and Charges, attached hereto as Schedules "A", "B" and "C", be approved, for water and water services supplied on and after July 1, 2013; April 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015, respectively.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 19th day of June, 2013.



Clerk of the Board

K. Shillow

SCHEDULE "A"
DIGBY WATER COMMISSION

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after July 1, 2013)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

When payment is made after 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill, the rates will include interest charges of 1.25 % per month, or part thereof.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Commission" means the Digby Water Commission.

1. **RATES:**

(a) <u>Base Charges</u>	<u>Bi-Monthly</u>
Un Metered (assuming 60,000 imp gallons per year)	58.03
Size of Meter	
5/8"	37.85
3/4"	55.36
1"	90.40
1.5"	177.98
2"	283.08
3"	563.34
4"	878.64
6"	1754.46
8"	3155.78
(b) Consumption Rate (per 1000 imp. gallons)	
	\$ 2.02

(c) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Town of Digby and the Municipality of the District of Digby shall pay, annually, to the Digby Water Commission for fire protection on or before October 1, 2013 the sum of \$220,023.

The fire protection charge shall be apportioned between the Town and the Municipality based on the number of hydrants owned and operated by the Commission as of October 1, 2013 in each location.

3. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SERVICE

Each building having a sprinkler system installed shall pay annually for the service as follows:

Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 6" or less in diameter	\$160.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 8" or more in diameter	\$250.00

4. WATER FOR BUILDINGS OR WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Commission may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for the construction of a building or other works. This person shall deposit with the Commission such sum as may be determined by the Commission as is sufficient to defray the cost of making the necessary connection to any water service or main together with the cost of the meter to be installed to measure the water consumed. Upon completion of the work and the return of the meter to the Commission, a refund will be made after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the water service box, the meter and of testing the same and payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

5. PRIVATE HYDRANT CONNECTION RATES

Per hydrant per year \$250.00.

6. RATES FOR WATER SUPPLIED FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Whenever the use of any fire hydrant is desired for supplying water for any purpose, excepting those of the Fire Department for fire use, the Commission may grant a permit containing such terms and conditions as it may provide, including arrangements regarding supervision of the opening and closing of the hydrant, and a service charge for commercial consumers of \$60.00 for connection and disconnection and a consumption charge for the amount of water used, as estimated by the water Commission, at the bulk water rate.

7. CHARGES FOR RE-ESTABLISHING WATER SERVICE

When water service has been suspended for any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, such water service shall not be re-established until a reconnection charge of \$50.00 has been paid to the Commission. If reconnection is outside of regular working hours, the charge is \$150.00.

8. CONNECTION FEE

The Commission shall charge a \$50.00 fee for the creation of a water account, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection of the system may have occurred.

9. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer requests the water be turned off from any premises for an extended period of time, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water, and no additional charge shall be made for turning it on again when this is requested unless such request is after regular working hours of the Commission when a fee of \$150.00 shall apply.

10. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$50.00 (\$150.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services not provided for elsewhere in the schedules or the rules and regulations except for water service repairs requested by the Commission. In the case where the shutting off is requested because there is no operable shut off valve serving the dwelling, an isolation valve must be installed.

11. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Commission may charge a \$25.00 administration fee for cheques that, due to non-negotiability, have been rejected by the Commission's bank.

12. CHARGE FOR MISSED APPOINTMENT BY CUSTOMERS

Where an appointment has been made by a customer to have a water service hooked up or a meter inspected, or water turned on to a property, or other visits to the property for the inception or maintenance of water service to the property, and the customer fails to keep the appointment or the plumbing is not completed to allow for installation of a water meter and the Commission's staff have to return to the property, there may be a charge of \$50.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Commission, it is required.

13. VESSEL WATERING AND TANKER TRUCK SERVICE

The Commission may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for vessel watering and tanker truck service. Water supplied for this purpose shall be available at a cost of \$12.25 per 1000 imperial gallons plus a fee for any equipment and labour supplied by the Commission at cost plus 30%.

V. Schiller

SCHEDULE "B"
DIGBY WATER COMMISSION

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after April 1, 2014)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

When payment is made after 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill, the rates will include interest charges of 1.25 % per month, or part thereof.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Commission" means the Digby Water Commission.

1. **RATES:**

(a) <u>Base Charges</u>	<u>Bi-Monthly</u>
Un Metered (assuming 60,000 imp gallons per year)	61.05
Size of Meter	
5/8"	39.36
3/4"	57.57
1"	94.00
1.5"	185.06
2"	294.35
3"	585.76
4"	913.60
6"	1824.27
8"	3281.34
(b) Consumption Rate (per 1000 imp. gallons)	
	\$ 2.17

(c) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Town of Digby and the Municipality of the District of Digby shall pay, annually, to the Digby Water Commission for fire protection on or before October 1, 2014 the sum of \$226,852.

The fire protection charge shall be apportioned between the Town and the Municipality based on the number of hydrants owned and operated by the Commission as of October 1, 2014 in each location.

3. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SERVICE

Each building having a sprinkler system installed shall pay annually for the service as follows:

Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 6" or less in diameter	\$160.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 8" or more in diameter	\$250.00

4. WATER FOR BUILDINGS OR WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Commission may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for the construction of a building or other works. This person shall deposit with the Commission such sum as may be determined by the Commission as is sufficient to defray the cost of making the necessary connection to any water service or main together with the cost of the meter to be installed to measure the water consumed. Upon completion of the work and the return of the meter to the Commission, a refund will be made after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the water service box, the meter and of testing the same and payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

5. PRIVATE HYDRANT CONNECTION RATES

Per hydrant per year \$250.00.

6. RATES FOR WATER SUPPLIED FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Whenever the use of any fire hydrant is desired for supplying water for any purpose, excepting those of the Fire Department for fire use, the Commission may grant a permit containing such terms and conditions as it may provide, including arrangements regarding supervision of the opening and closing of the hydrant, and a service charge for commercial consumers of \$60.00 for connection and disconnection and a consumption charge for the amount of water used, as estimated by the water Commission, at the bulk water rate.

7. CHARGES FOR RE-ESTABLISHING WATER SERVICE

When water service has been suspended for any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, such water service shall not be re-established until a reconnection charge of \$50.00 has been paid to the Commission. If reconnection is outside of regular working hours, the charge is \$150.00.

8. CONNECTION FEE

The Commission shall charge a \$50.00 fee for the creation of a water account, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection of the system may have occurred.

9. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer requests the water be turned off from any premises for an extended period of time, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water, and no additional charge shall be made for turning it on again when this is requested unless such request is after regular working hours of the Commission when a fee of \$150.00 shall apply.

10. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$50.00 (\$150.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services not provided for elsewhere in the schedules or the rules and regulations except for water service repairs requested by the Commission. In the case where the shutting off is requested because there is no operable shut off valve serving the dwelling, an isolation valve must be installed.

11. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Commission may charge a \$25.00 administration fee for cheques that, due to non-negotiability, have been rejected by the Commission's bank.

12. CHARGE FOR MISSED APPOINTMENT BY CUSTOMERS

Where an appointment has been made by a customer to have a water service hooked up or a meter inspected, or water turned on to a property, or other visits to the property for the inception or maintenance of water service to the property, and the customer fails to keep the appointment or the plumbing is not completed to allow for installation of a water meter and the Commission's staff have to return to the property, there may be a charge of \$50.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Commission, it is required.

13. VESSEL WATERING AND TANKER TRUCK SERVICE

The Commission may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for vessel watering and tanker truck service. Water supplied for this purpose shall be available at a cost of \$12.83 per 1000 imperial gallons plus a fee for any equipment and labour supplied by the Commission at cost plus 30%.

K. Sullivan

SCHEDULE "C"
DIGBY WATER COMMISSION

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after April 1, 2015)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

When payment is made after 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill, the rates will include interest charges of 1.25 % per month, or part thereof.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Commission" means the Digby Water Commission.

1. **RATES:**

(a) <u>Base Charges</u>	<u>Bi-Monthly</u>
Un Metered (assuming 60,000 imp gallons per year)	63.71
Size of Meter	
5/8"	40.73
3/4"	59.59
1"	97.30
1.5"	191.59
2"	304.74
3"	606.46
4"	945.89
6"	1888.76
8"	3397.36
(b) Consumption Rate (per 1000 imp. gallons)	
	\$ 2.30

(c) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Town of Digby and the Municipality of the District of Digby shall pay, annually, to the Digby Water Commission for fire protection on or before October 1, 2015 the sum of \$239,057.

For subsequent years, the annual public fire protection rate shall be based on the above or:

(a) the sum of 45.5 % of transmission and distribution, taxes and depreciation expenses of the Commission and return on rate base of the immediately preceding year, plus

(b) 10 % of all other expenses,
whichever is the greater.

The fire protection charge shall be apportioned between the Town and the Municipality based on the number of hydrants owned and operated by the Commission as of October 1, 2015, and October 1 of subsequent years, in each location.

3. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SERVICE

Each building having a sprinkler system installed shall pay annually for the service as follows:

Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 6" or less in diameter	\$160.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 8" or more in diameter	\$250.00

4. WATER FOR BUILDINGS OR WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Commission may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for the construction of a building or other works. This person shall deposit with the Commission such sum as may be determined by the Commission as is sufficient to defray the cost of making the necessary connection to any water service or main together with the cost of the meter to be installed to measure the water consumed. Upon completion of the work and the return of the meter to the Commission, a refund will be made after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the water service box, the meter and of testing the same and payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

5. PRIVATE HYDRANT CONNECTION RATES

Per hydrant per year \$250.00.

6. RATES FOR WATER SUPPLIED FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Whenever the use of any fire hydrant is desired for supplying water for any purpose, excepting those of the Fire Department for fire use, the Commission may grant a permit containing such terms and conditions as it may provide, including arrangements regarding supervision of the opening and closing of the hydrant, and a service charge for commercial consumers of \$60.00 for connection and disconnection and a consumption charge for the amount of water used, as estimated by the water Commission, at the bulk water rate.

7. CHARGES FOR RE-ESTABLISHING WATER SERVICE

When water service has been suspended for any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, such water service shall not be re-established until a reconnection charge of \$50.00 has been paid to the Commission. If reconnection is outside of regular working hours, the charge is \$150.00.

8. CONNECTION FEE

The Commission shall charge a \$50.00 fee for the creation of a water account, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection of the system may have occurred.

9. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer requests the water be turned off from any premises for an extended period of time, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water, and no additional charge shall be made for turning it on again when this is requested unless such request is after regular working hours of the Commission when a fee of \$150.00 shall apply.

10. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$50.00 (\$150.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services not provided for elsewhere in the schedules or the rules and regulations except for water service repairs requested by the Commission. In the case where the shutting off is requested because there is no operable shut off valve serving the dwelling, an isolation valve must be installed.

11. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Commission may charge a \$25.00 administration fee for cheques that, due to non-negotiability, have been rejected by the Commission's bank.

12. CHARGE FOR MISSED APPOINTMENT BY CUSTOMERS

Where an appointment has been made by a customer to have a water service hooked up or a meter inspected, or water turned on to a property, or other visits to the property for the inception or maintenance of water service to the property, and the customer fails to keep the appointment or the plumbing is not completed to allow for installation of a water meter and the Commission's staff have to return to the property, there may be a charge of \$50.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Commission, it is required.

13. VESSEL WATERING AND TANKER TRUCK SERVICE

The Commission may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for vessel watering and tanker truck service. Water supplied for this purpose shall be available at a cost of \$13.45 per 1000 imperial gallons plus a fee for any equipment and labour supplied by the Commission at cost plus 30%.