NOVA SCOTIA REGULATORY AND APPEALS BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by the **MUNICIPALITY OF ANNAPOLIS COUNTY,** on behalf of **its Water Utility** for the following**:**

> **(1)** Approval of a capital expenditure in the amount of $3,651,056 (funded by the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada) related to the upgrade and replacement of the Bear River Water System.

(2) An order combining the **BRIDGETOWN Water Utility and the Bear River Water System** with its **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 for the combined Annapolis County Water Utility.

These matters will be considered in a public hearing as follows:

Hearing starts:	**Thursday, December 10, 2026** **1:00 p.m.**
Evening Session:	**Thursday, December 10, 2026** **6:00 pm (if needed)**
Hearing Location:	**Annapolis Royal Fire Department** **5 saint Anthony Street** **Annapolis Royal, NS**

THE DATE AND LOCATION OF THE HEARING MAY CHANGE

If any Intervenor in this proceeding intends to file evidence, the timeline will be extended to accommodate this, and the hearing date will be rescheduled.

Depending on the circumstances, all or part of this public hearing may be held virtually, by video conferencing.

THE DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR THIS HEARING MAY BE CONFIRMED BY VISITING THE BOARD'S WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING THE CLERK OF THE BOARD.

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 **Monday, November 30, 2026,** of your request to speak.

- 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 using our secure file transfer service at https://board.titanfile.com/NSRAB/, or by fax at (902) 424-3919 by **Monday, November 30, 2026.**

- You may request formal standing as an Intervenor, subject to Board approval. This will allow you to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses. Your request must be received by the Board by **Friday, October 23, 2026,** and a copy of your written evidence by **Monday, November 30, 2026.**

Additional information about the matter is as follows:

- The current rates for the Bear River Water System were approved on an interim basis and are the same as the Annapolis County Water Utility. The current Annapolis County average quarterly bill includes the Bear River Water System.

- For comparative purposes, the average residential customer (5/8" meters) quarterly bills described below are based upon a sample customer, with quarterly water consumption of 35 m^3. For comparative purposes, for all other meter sizes, the average quarterly bills described below are based upon the average consumption by meter size of the combined utility. Actual quarterly water bills for customers are dependent upon individual water consumption and may differ from the amounts shown below.

Effective 2026/27

For residential customers (Annapolis County), the current average quarterly water bill is $180.12, and it is proposed to increase to $210.82 (a 17.0% increase) in 2026/27.

For residential customers (Bridgetown), the current average quarterly water bill is $176.71, and it is proposed to increase to $210.82 (a 19.3% increase) in 2026/27.

For the other metered services (Annapolis County), the proposed average quarterly water bill increases range from 8.8% to 29.1%in 2026/27.

For the other metered services (Bridgetown), the proposed average quarterly water bill increases range from 10.5% to 28.3% in 2026/27.

Effective 2027/28
For the proposed Annapolis County Water Utility, for a 5/8" residential customer, the average quarterly water bill is proposed to increase from $210.82 to $220.00 (a 4.4% increase) in 2027/28. For the other metered services, the proposed average quarterly water bill increases range from 0.9% to 4.6% in 2027/28.

Effective 2028/29
For the proposed Annapolis County Water Utility, for a 5/8" residential customer, the average quarterly water bill is proposed to increase from $220.00 to $232.16 (a 5.5% increase) in 2028/29. For the other metered services, the proposed average quarterly water bill increases range from 3.5% to 5.7% in 2028/29.

Public Fire Protection
Amendments are further proposed to the public fire protection charge to the County. The current annual fire protection charges by each of the existing water utilities of Annapolis County and Bridgetown have an estimated combined total of $400,310. It is proposed to increase to $404,040 (a 0.9% increase) in 2026/27; $458,233 (a 13.4% increase) in 2027/28 and $502,075 (a 9.6% increase) in 2028/29.

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 http://nserbt.ca/nsrab/, by clicking on "Matters & Evidence", "Go To Files & Documents", and in the "Go Directly to Matter" search box, enter Matter No. **M12533** (capital expenditure request) and/or **M13098** (rate application) or at the offices of the **Municipal Chambers** located at **752 St. George Street, Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia**.

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.