WATER UTILITY ACT

WATER TARIFF NO. 6

RATES AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR WATER SERVICE

at:

Blind Bay, BC

By

Shuswap Lake Utilities Ltd.

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Contact Persons

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This Tariff is available for public inspection at:

2405 Centennial Drive, Shuswap Lake Estates office

Accepted for Filing by the Comptroller of Water Rights on 30th day of September, 2022

Effective Date: May 1, 2022

Secretary to the Comptroller of Water Rights

Definitions

In this tariff the following definitions shall apply:

a) "**authorized premises**" means premises which are entitled to, and authorized for, service in accordance with the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity of the Utility;

b) **"business day"** means a day during which normal business is conducted and usually includes Monday through Friday. A statutory holiday is not considered a Business Day.

c) **"Comptroller"** means the Comptroller of Water Rights under the *Water Act* and includes a Deputy Comptroller or a person appointed by the Minister as Acting Comptroller;

d) **"customer"** means any person who is the owner or lessee of an authorized premises;

e) **"premises"** means land and buildings thereon;

f) **"rate"** includes:

(1) a general, individual or joint rate, fee, charge, rental or other compensation of the Utility,

(2) a schedule or tariff respecting a rate;

g) **"residential service"** means in-house use plus lawn sprinkling & garden watering to a maximum area of 1/3 of an acre;

h) **"service"** shall include:

1) the supply of water provided by the Utility to the customer,

2) the plant, equipment, apparatus, appliances, property and facilities employed by or in connection with the utility in providing the supply of water to the property line of the premise.

i) **"single family residential equivalent (SFRE)"** means and includes a single family dwelling unit intended for the use or occupancy by one or more individuals as a household.

j) **"unit"** means a building of accommodation occupied separately or to be occupied separately by an owner or lessee and, which either separately or jointly with other units, receives service from a connection to the Utility's waterworks and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes the separate units of accommodation in all dwellings.

k) "Utility" means ***Shuswap Lake Utilities Ltd.***

l) The terms **"his"** and **"him"** shall include her, they, their.

Terms and Conditions

1. Application for Service

For authorized premises, charges for service are intended to recover the Utility's costs. The following charges are applicable depending upon the circumstances:

(a) At the time an application is made for service to premises which had not previously been connected for service, the applicable charge shown in Schedule "A (a)" and/or Schedule "A (b)" of this tariff shall be paid by the applicant.

(b) A turn-on fee of $250.00 shall be applicable when:

(i) a turn-on of a valve at an existing curb-stop is made at a date after the service connection was installed;

(ii) a customer becomes re-connected after service has been shut-off at the request of the customer, for non-payment of rates, or for violation of these terms and conditions.

(c) There is no charge for service shut-off except for non-payments of rates, or for violations of these terms and conditions a service shut-off charge of $100.00 shall be applicable.

(d) At the time an application for service is made by a new customer, an administration charge of $100.00 shall apply. This charge is not only applicable for a new connection, but also when a new customer, either owner or lessee of the premises, commences receiving service to an existing authorized premises.

2. Billing and Payment

All bills are issued **quarterly** (except for Availability Charges, which are issued annually) and are due and payable within fifteen days of the date of issue. Flat rates (and flat rate portion of metered rates) are billed in advance of service. For metered rates, excess consumption is billed in arrears. If the amount due on any bill has not been paid in full within thirty business days from the date of issue a further bill will be rendered to include the overdue amount plus a late payment charge of $25.00. This late payment charge will be applied to each subsequent quarterly billing period that the account remains overdue.

If a cheque is returned by the customer's financial institution an administration fee of $50.00 will be charged.

3. Service Shut-Off Due to Non-Payment

When an account becomes one month overdue, service may be shut off upon 15 business days' written notice. A notice sent by mail to the last known postal address of the customer shall be deemed good and sufficient notice. A collection charge $100.00 as per Section 1(c) shall be paid each time a Utility representative attends a customer's premises to disconnect service, following the issuance of a shut-off notice.

Service will not be turned on until all outstanding charges against the service, including the collection charge, shut-off charge and turn-on fee (Sections 1(b) and 1(c)) have been paid.

4. Discontinuance of Service

a) Customers must give at least five Business Days' notice in writing at the office of the Utility when requesting discontinuance of service and shall be liable for payment for all service until such service has been discontinued.

b) Any customer who desires to discontinue the use of water for any of the purposes stated in his application for service shall give notice of his intention, in writing, at the office of the Utility, and shall further show that any fittings used for the supply of water for such purposes have been disconnected.

c) The Utility may discontinue service to any customer who contravenes the terms and conditions contained in this tariff. In the event of further contravention of the tariff, the Utility may detach the service connection from the customer's premises and, upon re-application for service; the customer shall be liable to pay the Utility's cost of performing the said detachment and re-connection in addition to other applicable rates and charges.

5. Access to Premises

The Utility shall have the right of access to the customer's premises at all reasonable times for the purposes of making connections, reading meters, inspecting pipes and appurtenances, checking on the use or waste of water or determining compliance with these terms and conditions.

6. Interruption of Service

The Utility intends to maintain at all times an adequate and continuous supply of water at suitable pressures but accepts no liability for interruptions due to circumstances beyond its control. However, for the interruptions in excess of 48 hours, a proportionate rebate will be allowed to customers served on flat rates.

7. Restriction of Use of Water

The Utility may restrict or prohibit the use of water for gardening, sprinkling, air conditioning, the filling of swimming pools, or other purposes when, in its opinion, such action is necessary to conserve the water supply or to maintain water pressure. A customer who contravenes water use restrictions may receive one warning notice per calendar year before a fine for contravention applies. A notice delivered to the customer's premises shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of a contravention. For each subsequent contravention during the calendar year, a $200.00 fine is applicable.

8. Limits on Water Use

No customer shall sell or dispose of any water or permit same to be carried away, or use water or allow it to be used in premises, or for purposes other than those stated in the customer's application for service.

The Utility may, if in its opinion an undue amount of water is used at any time by any customer being served under a flat rate, install a water meter and thereafter charge the customer in accordance with the meter rates included in this tariff. All such meters shall remain the property of the Utility. If it is not practical to install a meter within the building or if a customer and/or property owner refuses to allow a meter to be installed within the premises, a minimum charge of $2,000.00 will be charged for the installation of a chamber and water meter outside of the building. The property owner is responsible for any additional costs if the installation is greater than this amount.

9. Multiple Dwellings

In the case of apartment houses, duplexes, townhomes or houses containing one or more suites, each such accommodation, whether or not self-contained, shall be considered as a separate customer providing it is *so* specified in a schedule of this Tariff.

10. Work to be done by the Utility

No person, who is not an agent or employee of the Utility, shall make any connections with or alterations to or tamper with any of the Utility's waterworks, including any water meter belonging to the Utility, nor turn on or off any valve or curb stop of the Utility, without prior authorization by the Utility in writing. A fine of $500.00 is applicable for each contravention.

11. Minimum Size of Services

The minimum size of pipe used to serve any one premises shall be 3/4" (19 mm) nominal diameter. The type and diameter of pipe used on the customer's premises should be selected with due consideration of pressure losses from friction.

12. Minimum Earth Cover Over Services

All services on the customer's premises shall be buried below the maximum depth of frost penetration but in any event at a minimum depth of 1.5m (5’) below the surface of the ground.

13. Ownership of Service

All water service pipes and fittings carrying water from the main to the customer’s property line shall be the property of the Utility.

14. Stop Cock

The customer shall provide a shut-off valve (stop cock) inside each of the customer's buildings in which water is used, for the use of the customer in case of leaky or defective pipes or fixtures, or in case the premises is vacated.

15. Customer's Service Pipes

Service connection materials installed on the customer's premises shall be rated by the manufacturer to sustain a minimum working pressure of 160 psi (1100 kilopascals). No service pipe or fitting shall be covered until they have been inspected and approved by the Utility.

16. Dangerous Cross-Connections

The customer shall not permit the plumbing on their premises to be connected to any source of water supply other than the Utility's, or to any potential source of contamination, without first obtaining the Utility's permission in writing. Any back-flow preventers deemed necessary by the Utility to prevent the entry of contaminants shall be installed at the customer's expense, in the time frame provided by the Utility. Discovery of an unauthorized cross-connection, or cross-connection that is not suitably protected by a certified backflow preventer, may result in immediate shut-off of water service without notice by the Utility. The water shall not be turned on again until such repairs have been made to the satisfaction of the Utility, and the charges paid as provided for in clauses 1 and 4(c) of this tariff. No person whose water supply is shut off pursuant to this section shall have any claim against the Utility for discontinuance of supply.

All customers are to comply with the Utility's Cross-Connection Control Policy. All commercial customers are required to have a certified backflow preventer.

17. Condition of Customer's Pipes and Fixtures

All customers at their own risk and expense shall keep their pipes, stop cocks and other fixtures in good working order and shall protect them from frost and other damage. The Utility shall, within a reasonable time notify the customer of any leaky pipes and fixtures that are evident on the premises. If the necessary repairs are not made within two (2) working days after such notice has been given, or when the condition of the pipes or fixtures is such as to cause damage to property or material waste of water or damage to property, then without further notice the Utility may shut off the water supply. The water shall not be turned on again until such repairs have been made to the satisfaction of the Utility, and the charges paid as provided by clauses 1 and 4(c) of this tariff. No person whose water supply is shut off pursuant to this section shall have any claim against the Utility for discontinuance of supply.

18. Notice of Service Shut-off

The Utility shall have the right at all times to shut off the water supply temporarily to any premises in order to make repairs, replacements, alterations and extensions to the Utility's waterworks as shall, in the opinion of the Utility, be deemed necessary. Whenever possible the Utility will give reasonable advance notice of shut-off, and, in all cases where the Utility expects service to be interrupted for 24 hours or more, the Utility shall give advance notice to its customers.

19. Application for Extension of Service

For lots not authorized for service, all applications for extension of water service shall be made in writing by the owner or lessee of the premises to which the application refers, or by the owner's duly authorized agent. All applications for service shall state:

a) the purpose(s) for which the service is to be used (i.e., domestic, commercial, irrigation, fire protection, etc.);
b) the legal description of the property;
c) the number and location of the premises to be served;
d) for non-single-family residential, the area of the proposed building(s).

Charges for extension of service are intended to recover the Utility's costs. For each application, an initial deposit of $1,000.00is required to be paid at the time of application. Additional costs incurred by the Utility for legal, engineering and other fees, including Utility staff time, will be payable by the applicant and may require further deposits prior to undertaking certain aspects of the application process.

Each application for extension of service requires an amendment to the Utility's Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN) to include the lot(s) within its authorized service area. In response to each application, the Utility will detail the terms and conditions of service including all rates and charges applicable. Prior to the issuance of an amended CPCN, confirmation is required that either a deposit into the Utility's Deferred Capacity Reserve Trust Fund under Schedule B of this tariff has been made or that additional works have been constructed and contributed to the Utility by the applicant as required by the Comptroller of Water Rights.

Once the amended CPCN is issued, and while the lot(s) are not receiving service, Availability of Service (rent) charges under Schedule G of this tariff will be applicable.

Additional applications shall be made for all extensions of service to additional premises and for additional purposes.

20. Water Main Extensions

General Provisions

20.1 Any waterworks installed pursuant to an application for extension of service shall be the sole property of the Utility.

20.2 The size, type, quality of materials, and their location will be specified by the Utility and the actual construction will be done by the Utility or by a construction agency acceptable to it.

20.3 In arriving at the length of the main extension necessary to render service to any point, the distance from such point to the nearest distribution main shall be considered along lines of proper construction and common practice in the location of public waterworks, due consideration being given to the general layout of the Utility's system. The length of the extension shall be measured along the lines of proper construction from the nearest distribution main to the end of the furthest property to be served unless it is deemed that future extension is not likely or feasible, in which case the length is to be measured to the middle of the furthest property to be served.

20.4 The Utility will not be required to make extensions where road grades have not been brought to those established by public authority.

20.5 Where an extension must comply with a law, statute, bylaw, ordinance, regulation, specification or order of a public authority, the estimated cost of the extension shall be based upon the waterworks required to comply therewith.

Method of Allocating Advances and Refunds

20.6 Advances by original applicants:
When more than one applicant is involved and an advance is required in payment for a main extension, the amount of the advance shall be divided equally or as otherwise agreed among the applicants and made known to the Utility.

20.7 Advances by subsequent customers:
An extension charge equal to a pro-rata share of the original cost of the main extension shall be collected by the Utility from each additional customer who connects to the original main extension within five years. The extension charge collected above shall be refunded equally **or as otherwise agreed** to the customers who already have advances deposited with the Utility as a result of connection to the extension, so that in the result all subscribers will have paid their pro-rata share or as otherwise agreed by them and made known to the Utility.

20.8 Advances which may be required from applicants in payment for extensions will be held by the Utility without interest. Refunds will be made in accordance with these rules and no *person* will have refunded to him an amount in excess of the amount of his advance. Refunds will be paid to the current registered owners of the properties on account of which the deposits were received. Any amount not used by the Utility for construction of the extension and not refunded at the end of five years from the date the advance was received by the Utility from the original applicant or applicants will be retained by the Utility and transferred to the "Deferred Capacity Reserve Trust Fund" account. Thereafter additional customers will be connected without being required to pay the extension charge.

21. Winter Construction

The Utility reserves the right to refuse to make extensions and install service pipe to a customer's property line under frost conditions in the winter months that would make the undertaking impractical or in the Utility's opinion, excessively costly.

22. Amendments to Tariff

The rates and charges recorded in this tariff are the only lawful, enforceable and collectable rates and charges of the Utility, and shall not be amended without the consent of the Comptroller. The Comptroller, on his own motion, or on complaint of the Utility or other interested persons that the existing rates in effect and collected or any rates charged or attempted to be charged for service by the Utility are unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, unduly discriminatory or in contravention of the *Water Utility Act*, regulations or law, may, after investigation, determine the just, reasonable and sufficient rates to be observed and in force, and shall, by order, fix the rates.

The Utility may submit to the Comptroller, by letter of application together with full supporting documentation, proposed amendments to rates and charges, and other terms and conditions of service. After initial review of the application, the Comptroller may require the Utility to give an acceptable form of notice of the application to its customers and other interested persons. The notice

will state a specific time period within which any interested persons may submit objections to the application to the Comptroller. After investigation of the application and any objections thereto, the Comptroller will decide the matter and notify all interested persons of his decision.

23. Disputes

In case of disagreement or dispute regarding the application of any provision of these terms and conditions, or in circumstances where the application of the terms and conditions appears impracticable or unjust to either party, the Utility, or the applicant or applicants, may refer the matter to the Comptroller for adjudication.

Schedule A

Water Service Connection

The charges shown below apply to connections to a main (see Section 1).

The connection charge (a) recovers the cost incurred by the Utility, and not otherwise recovered, of installing a service connection from the water main to a curb stop and, if required, a meter at the property line of the customer's premises or in the building. Cost herein includes any administrative overhead incurred.

Where, at a time prior to a customer's application for service, a service connection has been installed at no cost to the Utility or at a cost otherwise recovered by the Utility, then upon connection of the service pipe, the rate shown in (b) below shall be paid upon application for service.

Where the work performed in connecting a customer's service pipe to the Utility's service pipe is done by an authorized agent of the Utility, the Utility shall be entitled to an inspection fee as shown in (c) below. If the work is performed by persons other than the Utility or an authorized agent of the Utility, the Utility shall be entitled to an inspection fee as shown below in (c) and, in addition, a $1,000.00 non-approved installer fee payable at the time of application for service.

Connections to services installed prior to 1984 or connections to services installed more than 30 years ago are not permitted as the property owner is to pay for replacement of the existing service connection from the main to the property line, complete with new corp stop, curb stop and restoration in accordance with (a)

(a)	Connection Charge **(Minimum $1,000.00)**:	**At Cost**
(b)	Connection of customer's service pipe to an existing curb stop:	**$250.00**
(c)	Inspecting a customer's service pipe and hook-up to an existing curb stop when work is performed by other than the Utility.	
	Note: this charge is in addition to charges that apply in (a)	**$100.00**

Schedule B

Contribution in Aid of Future Construction

Where as a result of premises becoming qualified as authorized premises a greater number of units require or may require service from the utility, thus utilizing waterworks capacity presently or in the future, then, upon application for an extension of service, in addition to the connection charge and any main extension costs, the charge shown below shall be paid.

For each residential service premises qualifying as authorized premises	**$6,000.00**

Notes:

1. For other than a residential service premises, the charge shall be calculated on a single family residential equivalent basis.

2. Monies collected are to be deposited to the Utility's Deferred Capacity Reserve/Trust Fund and may only be released with the written authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights.

3. The Utility may waive the required DCRF contributions if the Applicant contributes sufficient infrastructure capacity to the system such that the new application has a net zero effect on (or increases) the systems existing capacity, or if the applicant is the primary developer and has already built sufficient capacity into the system to accommodate the new demand of the application.

Schedule C

Residential Service Flat Rates

Applicability: To residential service customers receiving service.

Rate: $ 165.00 per quarter per SFRE.

Notes:

1. From total rates collected, $270,000 per year is required to be deposited into a Replacement Reserve Trust Fund and may only be released with the written authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights.

2. Additional units within the same building are considered to be ½ of a unit and are to pay ½ of the residential service rate.

3. Seasonal users who request that their water service be shut off are to be charged at the Availability of Service (Rent) rate as per Schedule G for each single-family residential equivalent while their service is disconnected and be subject to the turn-on fees per sections 1(b) of the Tariff.

Schedule D

Commercial Flat Rates

Applicability: To all commercial customers receiving service.

Rate: $ 165.00 per quarter per SFRE

Notes:

1. From total rates collected, $270,000 per year is required to be deposited into a Replacement Reserve Trust Fund and may only be released with the written authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights.

2. Seasonal users who request that their water service be shut off are to be charged at the Availability of Service (Rent) rate as per Schedule G for each single-family residential equivalent while their service is disconnected and be subject to the turn-on fees per sections 1(b) of the Tariff.

3. A surcharge of 1.0 SFRE is to be applied for each reverse osmosis station for customers who sell water. It is suggested that these users have water meters installed in which case the total charge would be in accordance with Schedule E.

4. Refer to the following summary table for the current list of SFRE units for commercial customers. This table may be amended as the commercial users changes or their water use changes.

Schedule E

Meter Rates

Applicability: To all customers receiving metered service.

Rate: $0.58/cu.m effective May 1, 2022
$0.75/cu.m effective November 1, 2022
$0.85/cu.m effective November 1, 2023

Notes:

1. From total rates collected, $270,000 per year is required to be deposited into a Replacement Reserve Trust Fund and may only be released with the written authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights.

2. The minimum annual fee cannot be less than 1.0 SFRE as noted in Schedule D, not including any turn-on fees that may be charged to Seasonal users.

Schedule G

Availability of Service (Rent) Charges

Applicability: To owners of the legal subdivision with Rent Charge Agreements eligible to be registered on title.

Availability: All owners of the lots to which this Rent Charge is applicable shall pay the rate during the period they are not users of water service.

Rate: **$ 462.00** per annum, per residential services lot/ SFRE

Notes:

1. For other than residential services lots, the Rent Charge shall be calculated on a SFRE basis.

2. From total rates collected, $270,000 per year is required to be deposited into a Replacement Reserve Trust Fund and may only be released with the written authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights.

3. Once a customer has received approval to connect to the Utility's waterworks, has passed inspection and has been accepted by the Utility as a customer, this Rent Charge will no longer apply to the portion of the property connected to the Utility's waterworks while service is being received. A pro-rated refund of the Rent Charge will be credited to the customer's account, if applicable. If service is temporarily shut-off (e.g., seasonal use), the customer shall pay a minimum of the Rent Charge payable on a pro-rated basis while not receiving water service or a greater amount if specified in another rate schedule(s) of this Tariff, but not both.

4. Any arrears of Rent Charges shall bear interest from the due date until payment at a rate of 18% per annum accruing daily, and shall be a charge upon the Lands or Future Lot or Lots in question in the same manner as the Rent Charge charged on the Lands.