

Order No. 22/18

**AN ORDER VARYING BOARD ORDER No. 113/17
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MOUNTAIN
LOCAL URBAN DISTRICT of BIRCH RIVER
FINAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES and 2014 DEFICIT RECOVERY**

February 7, 2018

**BEFORE: Shawn McCutcheon, Member, Panel Chair
Susan Nemec, FCPA, FCA, Member**

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1.0 Executive Summary

The Rural Municipality of Mountain (RM) requested that the Public Utilities Board (Board) vary the effective date of the final rates and rate rider from January 1, 2018 to April 1, 2018.

After review, the Board varies Board Order No. 113/17 to state that the final water and wastewater rates and rate rider are to come into effect April 1, 2018.

The rationale for the Board's decision is found under "Board Findings".

2.0 Background

On October 24, 2017, the Board issued Board Order No. 113/17 setting final water and wastewater rates and approving a 2014 deficit recovery through rate rider effective January 1, 2018.

3.0 Request to Review and Vary

By letter dated January 10, 2018, the RM requested the Board vary Board Order No. 113/17 to be effective April 1, 2018. Resolution 05/18 accompanied the letter supporting this request to vary Board Order No. 113/17.

This request was made by the RM for the following reasons:

- 1) To allow utility customers 30 days' notice of rate changes;
- 2) January-March billing has already been issued as quarterly billing is completed in advance;
- 3) Software limitations to adjust or rebill customer mid-cycle; and
- 4) Labour intensive to manually adjust utility accounts individually.

4.0 Board Findings

After considering the information filed and Board Order No. 113/17, the Board concludes that the Order is to be varied to have the final water and wastewater rates and rate rider, as approved in Board Order No. 113/17, to be effective April 1, 2018 as requested by the RM.

The Board makes this decision to coincide with the RM's billing cycle and not to cause any hardship on the Utility and in turn the ratepayers.

The Board notes that Board Order No. 113/17 was issued in October 2017 affording the RM time to provide notice to its customers and quarterly bill in advance. The Board reminds the RM to be mindful of effective dates and compliant with the directives issued by the Board.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

5.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Schedule "A" of the Public Utilities Board Order No. 113/17 BE AND IS HEREBY VARIED to state that the final water and wastewater rates and rate rider of \$16.74 per customer, per quarter for a period of five (5) years, are to come into effect April 1, 2018.
2. The Rural Municipality of Mountain amend its water by-law for the Birch River Utility to reflect the decisions in this Order and submit a copy once it has received third and final reading.
3. The Rural Municipality of Mountain is to provide notice to its customers regarding the final rates and the approved rate rider in the next quarterly billing with a copy provided to the Public Utilities Board.

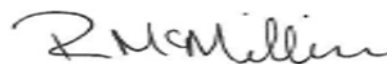
Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"SHAWN MCCUTCHEON"
Panel Chair

"RACHEL MCMILLIN, B. Sc."
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 22/18
issued by The Public Utilities Board



Acting Secretary