



# NOVA SCOTIA AND REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Heritage Gas Limited** has made application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates, Tolls and Charges. Specific details of the application are set out below.

**Commencing:** Monday, October 17, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

**Evening Session:** Monday, October 17, 2011  
7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Offices of the Board  
Summit Place  
Suite 300, 1601 Lower Water Street  
Halifax, NS

**ALL PERSONS** are entitled to attend the hearing.

**ANYONE WISHING TO MAKE COMMENTS IN WRITING** may do so by forwarding a letter to the Clerk of the Board at P. O. Box 1692, Unit "M", Halifax, NS B3J 3S3, or by email at: [board@gov.ns.ca](mailto:board@gov.ns.ca), or fax (902) 424-3919 by no later than **October 11, 2011**.

**PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK INFORMALLY AT THE EVENING SESSION** must notify the Board in writing of their intention by not later than **Tuesday, October 11, 2011**. Only members of the public who have so written to the Clerk of the Board will be permitted to speak. In the absence of any registered speakers by the October 11th deadline noted above, no evening session will be held.

**ANYONE WISHING TO HAVE FORMAL STANDING** to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses should file such intention with the Board by not later than **Thursday, July 7, 2011** and a copy of their written evidence by not later than **September 7, 2011**.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Board does not regulate the cost of natural gas.

Heritage Gas is proposing rate increases on the distribution portion of customers' bills of 9.8% (2012), 9.50% (2013) and 5.6% (2014) averaged across all customer classes. Corresponding increases on customers' total bills which include the cost of natural gas are expected to be lower. The impact of the proposed rate increases on typical customers within each rate class is summarized in the following table:

**Typical Distribution Rate Increases by Customer Class**

Year	Rate Class 1		Rate Class 2	Rate Class 3
	Residential (100 GJ/year)	Small Business (600 GJ/year)	(11,000 GJ/year)	(195,000 GJ/year)
2012	9.4%	7.9%	7.9%	21.2%
2013	8.7%	9.9%	9.7%	7.4%
2014	5.5%	6.9%	3.0%	4.8%

**Typical Distribution Monthly Dollar Increase by Customer Class**

Year	Rate Class 1		Rate Class 2	Rate Class 3
	Residential (100 GJ/year)	Small Business (600 GJ/year)	(11,000 GJ/year)	(195,000 GJ/year)
2012	\$ 7.63	\$ 30.79	\$ 199.83	\$ 4,739.70
2013	\$ 7.69	\$ 41.86	\$ 264.92	\$ 2,011.20
2014	\$ 5.31	\$ 31.85	\$ 90.75	\$ 1,392.00

Additionally, Heritage is seeking approval of: Schedule of Rates, Tolls and Charges; return on equity of 12.75%; cost of debt 7.875%; and debt/equity ratio of 55/45.

Upon reviewing the Application, the Board, in its decision, may determine that the proposed amendment should be as requested, or higher, or lower.

A copy of the Application and an Order containing the time line may be viewed at the office of the Board, Summit Place, 1601 Lower Water Street, 3rd Floor, Halifax, NS; or on the Board's website at [www.nsuarb.ca.MatterNo.M04196](http://www.nsuarb.ca.MatterNo.M04196) and at the office of Heritage Gas Limited, 200 - 238 Brownlow Avenue, Dartmouth, NS, telephone 902-466-2003.