

## New Service Lateral Connection Inspection Charges Frequently Asked Questions

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In August 2007, Halifax Water assumed Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) wastewater and stormwater assets and became Canada's first regulated water, wastewater and stormwater utility.

With this transfer, Halifax Water assumed responsibility for the review and inspection of wastewater (sanitary) and stormwater services, in addition to water service. Halifax Water requires all new water, wastewater and stormwater service pipes/laterals to be inspected by Halifax Water prior to activation of the service.

Below are questions and answers to help explain the charges.

### **When does the new fee structure take effect?**

The new fees are effective January 1, 2011 and implemented June 13, 2011.

### **Why has inspection fees increased?**

Following the Cost of Service Study filed by Halifax Water, as mandated by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB), it was determined that inspection fees did not accurately reflect the costs being incurred by Halifax Water to provide the service. The new fee structure reflects the actual costs being incurred by Halifax Water.

### **Is HRM still doing the review and inspection of sanitary and storm laterals?**

No. This is now the responsibility of Halifax Water.

### **What is the new fee structure for inspection services?**

- ✓ Water Laterals up to 50mm (2") in diameter = \$90.00 per visit, per service
- ✓ Water Laterals greater than 50mm (2") in diameter = \$165.00 per visit, per service
- ✓ Wastewater/Stormwater Laterals up to 150mm (6") in diameter = \$90.00 per visit, per service.
- ✓ Wastewater/Stormwater Laterals greater than 150mm (6") in diameter = \$165.00 per visit, per service

If multiple services are inspected at the same time, only one charge will apply.

### **Can I still pay my fees through HRM's Customer Service Centres?**

For new construction, the building permit and all other fees can be paid at HRM's Customer Service Centres. For non-building permit connections, Halifax Water processes the application directly.

### **Why is the cost higher for larger diameter pipes?**

Larger diameter pipes are generally associated with multi unit, industrial, commercial and institutional developments. The cost is based on inspection staff having to test the water service. In addition, lateral connections for sanitary and storm sewers tend to be more complex for these developments.

### **What if more than one inspection is required? Do I pay for each inspection?**

Yes, Applicants are required to pay for each inspection carried out to cover the costs incurred by Halifax Water for each inspection. Where two or more inspections are required, the second and any subsequent fees can be paid at the time of water meter connection. If multiple services are inspected at the same time, only one charge will apply.

### **How are multiple inspections tracked?**

With each inspection, the Halifax Water inspector will provide the applicant with a carbon copy of the inspection result. These will be tallied and the appropriate charge placed against the new account. The balance shall be cleared prior to the meter installation.

### **How will the revenue generated through these fees be used?**

As a regulated utility all funds generated are used to maintain, operate, administer and upgrade utility assets. For more information on Halifax Water's rates and fees for water, wastewater and stormwater services please visit [www.halifaxwater.ca](http://www.halifaxwater.ca) or call 490-4820.

### **What is this "Cost of Service Study"?**

Utilities generally use cost of service studies to determine what funding they require to operate and, as a result, the rates charged to customers benefiting from the service. The Halifax Water Cost of Service (CoSS), completed in late 2009, reviewed the services we provide to all of our customers – Industrial, Commercial, Multi-Residential, Institutional and Residential – to see if the costs for services are being charged in a fair and equitable manner.