

EPCOR PBR Applications - EPCOR Responses to Written Questions and Public Submissions

2022-2026 Water Services Application, 2022-2024 Wastewater Treatment and Drainage Services Applications

Recommendation

That Utility Committee recommend to the August 16, 2021, City Council meeting:

That the June 25, 2021, Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00623, be received for information.

Executive Summary

This report provides the responses from EPCOR Water Services Inc. to written questions from Councillors, the Utility Advisor and Administration, as well as submissions received from the public, with respect to the performance based rates applications to establish new customer rates for Water Services for the five year period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027, and for each of Wastewater Treatment and Drainage Services for the three year period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025.

Report

In February 2021, EPCOR Water Services Inc. (EWSI) submitted performance based rates (PBR) applications and proposed bylaws for approval by City Council to establish customer rates for Water Services for the five year period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027 (proposed EPCOR Water Services Bylaw 19626), and for each of Wastewater Treatment and Drainage Services for the three year period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025 (proposed EPCOR Drainage Services and Wastewater Treatment Bylaw 19627).

The regulatory process and guiding objectives for Utility Committee and City Council to assess the EWSI performance based rates applications were approved by Council on February 22, 2021 (Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00306). The process includes EWSI providing responses to written questions submitted by Councillors, the Utility Advisor and Administration, as well as submissions to be received from the public, by May 31, 2021.

One submission has been received from the public and is included in Attachment 1. In accordance with the regulatory process, EWSI is to provide written responses to public submissions received by May 31, 2021, as well as to the reports from Administration

(Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00624) and the Utility Advisor (Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00625) regarding the rates applications, by June 14, 2021. Public submissions received after May 31, 2021, will be received for information only.

The responses from EWSI to written questions submitted by Councillors, the Utility Advisor and Administration are included in Attachments 2, 3 and 4 respectively. In addition, Administration engaged an external consultant, Grant Thornton LLP, to assist with the review of the PBR applications. EWSI's responses to Grant Thornton's written questions are included in Attachment 5.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management.

Corporate Outcome(s):The City of Edmonton has sustainable and accessible infrastructure.			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Oversight and transparency of EPCOR water, wastewater and drainage services.	Annual and periodic reporting to Utility Committee of financial performance, operating and capital programs, and service quality levels.	Annual Progress Report - Water, Wastewater, Drainage (Fall 2020) Annual Operational Plan (Feb 2021) Performance Based Rates Applications (Feb 2021)	Annual Progress Report - Water, Wastewater, Drainage (June) Annual Operational Plan (Q1)

Attachments

1. Public Submission No. 1
2. EWSI Responses to Councillor Information Requests
3. EWSI Responses to Utility Advisor Information Requests
4. EWSI Responses to Administration Information Requests
5. EWSI Responses to Grant Thornton Information Requests

Others Reviewing this Report

- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- K. Fallis-Howell, Acting City Solicitor