

# NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION BY EPCOR

## FOR THE FRENCH CREEK WATER SYSTEM 2024-2026

**EPCOR is investing in the French Creek water system to ensure the community has a safe, sustainable water supply for years to come.**

In December 2023, EPCOR (EPCOR Water (West)) applied to the B.C. Comptroller of Water Rights to set water rates for the upcoming 2024-2026 rate period. The rates proposed in our application reflect the forecast costs of providing water service and maintaining and upgrading the French Creek water system during this timeframe.

We apply to set the water rates in French Creek every three years. The new rates will enable EPCOR to operate and upgrade the system for the 2024-2026 rate period, which allows us to continue providing safe and reliable water service to our customers.

For 2024-2026, our investment will make the system more reliable and efficient with:

- 1. The addition of two pressure-reducing valve stations.** These will alleviate areas in the system where water pressure exceeds the maximum allowable pressure. This improvement will result in reduced leakage, reduced stress on pipes and bends, and lower repair/maintenance costs on older, weaker sections of distribution piping.
- 2. Water main upgrades** (upgrading from a 100mm water main to 150mm). This will help ensure reliable fire service. This is one of many projects that will opportunistically and progressively address the fire flow deficiencies that are identified in the French Creek Water System Master Plan Update 2020.
- 3. Rehabilitation of three well systems.**
- 4. Increased sampling and testing of groundwater and the water system** to ensure we continue to deliver safe, clean water for our customers.

In addition, we are continuing to use a rate structure that encourages water conservation. The French Creek community draws its water from aquifers that are also used by neighbouring communities and private wells — we are allocated only a certain amount. While we have adequate supply for the needs of our customers, we want to ensure there's capacity to support the continued growth of the community while safeguarding the local watershed and responding to the challenges of climate change.

If you have comments on the application you can provide them to the Secretary to the Comptroller of Water Rights, on or before July 10, 2024, with a copy to EPCOR at [regulatorywater@epcor.com](mailto:regulatorywater@epcor.com), at:

Chris McMillan,  
Secretary to the Comptroller of Water Rights  
PO Box 9340 Stn Provincial Government,  
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1  
Email: [Chris.McMillan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.McMillan@gov.bc.ca)

If you wish to participate in the proceeding, you should register as an intervener in writing to the Secretary to the Comptroller of Water Rights by June 26, 2024.

**For more information on this regulatory proceeding and schedule, please visit our website at [epcor.ca/frenchcreek](http://epcor.ca/frenchcreek).**

You can find more information about the rates on our website at [epcor.com/frenchcreek](http://epcor.com/frenchcreek), or you can contact:

**Service Manager**

EPCOR Water (West) Inc.

#10-D 1343 Alberni Highway, Pine Tree Centre

Parksville, BC V9P 2B9

Fax: 250-954-0361

Email: [regulatorywater@epcor.com](mailto:regulatorywater@epcor.com)