

COLUMBIA RIDGE WATER UTILITY

REVENUE REQUIREMENTS AND RATES APPLICATION FOR 2026 TO 2028

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Contents

Q1:	What happened to Corix?	3
Q2:	Does BMUS own the Columbia Ridge Water Utility?	3
Q3:	Are BMUS's Water and Wastewater utilities distinct or combined?	3
Q4:	What is the extent of the water system's coverage?	3
Q5:	When do proposed rates take effect?	3
Q6:	Are water meters being considered?.....	3
Q7:	What is the rationale for the standby charge?	3
Q8:	How does a consolidated lot impact standby fees?.....	3
Q9:	To what customers do watering restrictions apply?	3
Q10:	What is the impact of recreational boat traffic on the lake's water quality?	4
Q11:	How far in advance is the capital budget forecasted?	4
Q12:	What's the spare plant capacity in the system? Can we take on more homes?.....	4
Q13:	Please explain what residential, irrigation and standby mean?	4
Q14:	Is CIAC the same as Contribution in Aid of Construction? Does this come from the reserve fund?	4
Q15:	When will this be filed with the regulator?	4

Q1: What happened to Corix?

In 2024, Corix's water and wastewater business merged with SouthWest Water to form the Nexus Water Group. The renewable energy business that was not part of the merger transaction retained the Corix name, while the Canadian water and wastewater business was rebranded as Bluestem Multi-Utility Services ULC (**BMUS**).

Q2: Does BMUS own the Columbia Ridge Water Utility?

Yes, BMUS owns and operates the Columbia Ridge Water Utility.

Q3: Are BMUS's Water and Wastewater utilities distinct or combined?

They are distinct utilities. Both are regulated by agencies such as the Interior Health Authority and the Ministry of Environment. In addition, the water utility is subject to the Comptroller of Water Rights' financial oversight, which regulates customer rates and related financial matters.

Q4: What is the extent of the water system's coverage?

The system coverage is illustrated in Figure 2 of the Application.

Q5: When do proposed rates take effect?

Subject to regulatory approval, the proposed rates are expected to take effect in **February 2026**.¹

Q6: Are water meters being considered?

BMUS is not currently pursuing the installation of water meters. However, the decision ultimately lies with the Columbia Ridge community. If there is strong community interest, BMUS encourages residents to communicate their support to the Comptroller.

Q7: What is the rationale for the standby charge?

The standby charge reflects the fixed costs required to establish and maintain service availability for a lot, even if the lot is not yet occupied or connected.

Q8: How does a consolidated lot impact standby fees?

In the absence of a separate, higher rate for consolidated lots, consolidating lots reduces the number of customers available to share system costs and increases costs for all connected customers. The decision as to whether to establish a separate rate for consolidated costs, in order to avoid or mitigate any impact on existing customer rates, rests with the regulator.

Q9: To what customers do watering restrictions apply?

They apply to all customers. BMUS emphasizes that the notice is intended as a conservation reminder rather than a strictly enforced restriction.

¹ The effective date has been moved to March 1, 2026.

Q10: What is the impact of recreational boat traffic on the lake's water quality?

BMUS has not observed any negative impact to date. Water quality is monitored through biweekly testing, and the system now includes UV treatment to enhance protection beyond standard chlorination.

Q11: How far in advance is the capital budget forecasted?

BMUS maintains a rolling **20-year capital forecast, including a five-year detailed capital forecast**. This Application focuses on the period **2026–2028**.

Q12: What's the spare plant capacity in the system? Can we take on more homes?

A capacity study is required to determine current system limits and any available spare capacity. Such a study would be financed by any developer wishing to connect to the system, not by existing customers.

Q13: Please explain what residential, irrigation and standby mean?

These represent the three customer classes within the system:

- **Residential:** Customers receiving standard household service
- **Irrigation:** Customers using raw water solely for irrigation (of which there is only one currently on the system)
- **Standby:** Lots where service is available, but no connection has been made, and as such no water is consumed

Q14: Is CIAC the same as Contribution in Aid of Construction? Does this come from the reserve fund?

Yes. CIAC stands for Contribution in Aid of Construction. Historically, CIAC's received were added to a reserve fund; however, BMUS is requesting closure of the existing reserve funds—see **Section 2.3** of the Application for details.

Q15: When will this be filed with the regulator?

It is planned for submission in **February 2026**.