

June 2, 2009

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

### **BWS Submits Application For Tariff Adjustment**

The Public Utilities Commission notifies the public that Belize Water Services Limited (BWS) has made an application to the Commission for adjustment to the existing tariffs. BWS submitted its “Application for Adjustment to Tariffs” based on “Notified Items”, in conformity with the Water and Sewerage (Tariffs) (Amendment) Byelaws, 2004.

BWS claims that increasing cost due to inflation has placed the company in an adverse financial position. BWS has applied for a tariff increase of eight percent (8%) based on the Notified Item of Inflation which it claims has risen by a compounded 15.6% from 2005 to 2008, based on annual inflation rates over the period of 3.7%, 4.2%, 2.3% and 4.6%, as reported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with the rate for 2008 being a “provisional” figure.

BWS cites that no tariff adjustment for Inflation has been effected for the company since 2005, and that the increasing cost (due to inflation) of goods and services it must access has reduced available cash, putting it in a position where it is unable to fund adequate maintenance, unable to invest in service expansion, unable to provide the regulated rate of return to shareholders and unable to hold adequate cash to expedite recovery from a major disaster, and “*where it cannot generate enough revenue from operations to meet its investment obligations*”.

The Commission is inviting all Interested Parties to make comments and representations with respect to the application by BWS. “Interested Party” means any person, customer or entity having an interest or concern in the outcome of an application or proceeding before the PUC.

The deadline for comments to be received from Interested Parties is Friday, June 12, 2009. Comments may be made in writing and delivered to the PUC at Public Utilities Commission, 41 Gabourel Lane, Belize City, P. O. Box 300; or by email to the PUC at [info@puc.bz](mailto:info@puc.bz).

The intended date for a public hearing if one is required is Wednesday June 17, 2009.

The Commission will issue its decision on Monday June 15, 2009 if no public hearing is required or on Friday, June 19, 2009 if a public hearing is held.

More details on BWS’s submission are contained in a public notice being printed in this week’s edition of national newspapers. The entire BWS submission may be viewed by Interested Persons at the office of the Public Utilities Commission, or may be accessed on the Commission’s website, [www.puc.bz](http://www.puc.bz). (ENDS)