



NEWS RELEASE

September 6th, 2005

Swift Current seeking public's help in SaskPower dispute

The city of Swift Current will be making a presentation to the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel tomorrow to oppose SaskPower's request for a 7.5% rate increase that would cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"We aren't holding out much hope that the panel will have the authority to respond to our presentation this time; but we are hoping that maybe they will listen to the owners of SaskPower...the people of Saskatchewan," said City Commissioner Matt Noble.

The city is appealing to the public through a number of means including province-wide radio advertising. Copies of the ads are available at www.swiftcurrent.ca.

"Like it says in the ad, if a crown corporation like SaskPower can treat Swift Current the way they are treating us then we all should be concerned. SaskPower belongs to the people of Saskatchewan," said Noble.

Noble says the proposed increase will further erode the value of *Swift Current Light and Power*, one of only two city-owned utilities in the province.

"We have no choice but to buy our power in bulk from SaskPower. When they raise the rate they charge for that power more than the rate we can charge our customers, that takes money right out of the pockets of Swift Current taxpayers and puts it into the coffers of SaskPower," said Noble.

Earlier this year, the City of Swift Current filed a lawsuit over previous SaskPower rate increase and alleged predatory rate-setting practices. SaskPower has yet to file a statement of defence in the case.

The Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel hearing begins at 1:30, Wednesday, September 7th at the Ramada Hotel & Convention Centre in Regina. Representatives from Swift Current will be available for interviews at 1:00 pm.

**For more information or to schedule an interview:
306-530-5051**