



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-98-90

IN THE MATTER OF the Utilities Commission
Act, S.B.C. 1980, c. 60, as amended

and

IN THE MATTER OF Applications filed by
Vancouver Island Gas Company Ltd. and
Victoria Gas Company (1988) Ltd.

BEFORE: N. Martin,)
Commissioner and)
Chairman of the Division;)
H.J. Page,) December 4, 1990
Commissioner; and)
K.L. Hall,)
Commissioner)

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources awarded Vancouver Island Gas Company Ltd. ("Vigas") and Victoria Gas Company (1988) Ltd. ("Victoria Gas") the rights to construct and operate natural gas distribution facilities on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast; and
- B. On November 30, 1990 Vigas, pursuant to Section 37 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act") filed an Application for Commission approval of Terms and Conditions of an Interim Operating Agreement to construct, operate and maintain a natural gas distribution facility and to provide natural gas service to:

Campbell River	Parksville	Sechelt
Comox	Port Alberni	Lake Cowichan
Courtenay	Cumberland	Ladysmith
Crofton	Duncan	
Gibsons	Qualicum Beach	

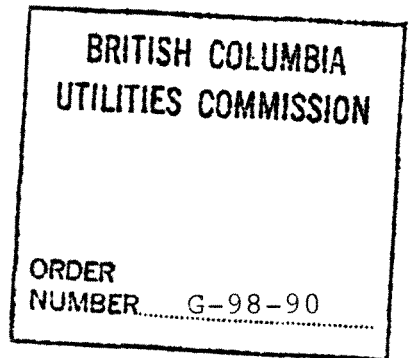
collectively referred to as ("the Municipalities"); and

- C. On November 30, 1990 Victoria Gas, pursuant to Section 37 of the Act filed an Application for Commission approval of Terms and Conditions of an Interim Operating Agreement to construct, operate and maintain a natural gas distribution facility and to provide natural gas service to:

Central Saanich	Metchosin	Colwood
North Saanich	Sidney	View Royal

collectively referred to as ("the Lower-Island Municipalities"); and

- D. Vigas and Victoria Gas applied for a further Order of the Commission making the Interim Operating Agreements final if the negotiated Franchise Agreements with the Municipalities and the Lower-Island Municipalities are not concluded within six months; and
- E. The Commission has reviewed the Applications and requires the matters to be set down for public hearing.



NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. A public hearing is to commence at 9:00 a.m., local time, Monday, January 7, 1991 at the Hotel Grand Pacific, 450 Quebec Street, Victoria, B.C.
2. Vigas and Victoria Gas will arrange for early publication but not later than December 11, 1990, in Display Ad format, a Notice of Public Hearing, as per attached copy, in one issue in the business section of the Vancouver Sun, The Province and the Victoria Times Colonist. This Notice will be published as soon as possible in such other appropriate local news publications as may provide adequate notice to the customers in the service area of the utilities.
3. The Application and supporting material is to be made available for inspection at the Head Office of Vigas and Victoria Gas, Suite 110, 800 Tolmie Avenue, Victoria, B.C., at #1 - 256 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, B.C. and in the local municipal halls identified in Sections B and C of the Order.
4. Intervenors intending to be present and participate in the public hearing should give written Notice of Intention to do so to the Commission Secretary and to the Applicant, to be received not later than Friday, December 28, 1990. Such Notice should state the nature of the interest in the proceeding that would qualify the party for intervenor status.
5. Vigas and Victoria Gas are to provide registered Intervenors to the proceeding with copies of the operating agreements and other such information that has been filed with the Commission.
6. Intervenors and interested parties intending to file a written submission should provide one copy to the Commission Secretary, and one to the Applicant, to be received not later than Thursday, January 3, 1991.
7. Information Requests submitted to Vigas and Victoria Gas are to be made by December 22, 1990 and are to be responded to by January 4, 1991.
8. Vigas and Victoria Gas are to file with the Commission not later than December 28, 1990, direct testimony and supplemental material upon which they intend to rely.
9. A pre-hearing conference will take place at 9:00 a.m. local time, Wednesday, December 12, 1990 at the Hotel Grand Pacific 450 Quebec Street, Victoria, B.C.

The pre-hearing conference will address substantive and procedural matters to include, but not limited to:

- scheduling;
- the completeness of the Application;
- the identification of principal issues; and
- any other matters that will enable the hearing to efficiently cover and thoroughly review all aspects of the Applications.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 4th day of December, 1990.

BY ORDER

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Norris Martin".

Norris Martin
Commissioner and
Chairman of the Division



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE APPLICATION

Vancouver Island Gas Company Ltd. ("Vigas") and Victoria Gas Company (1988) Ltd. ("Victoria Gas") applied concurrently on November 30, 1990 for Commission Orders approving the Terms and Conditions of Interim Operating Agreements to construct, operate and maintain natural gas distribution facilities in the communities of:

Vigas

Campbell River
Comox
Courtenay
Crofton
Qualicum Beach
Lake Cowichan
Ladysmith

Victoria Gas

Parksville
Port Alberni
Cumberland
Duncan
Sechelt
Gibsons
Central Saanich
North Saanich
Sidney
Colwood
View Royal
Metchosin

THE PUBLIC HEARING

The Commission has set down the Applications for public hearing to commence at 9:00 a.m. local time, Monday, January 7, 1991 at the Hotel Grand Pacific, 450 Quebec Street, Victoria, B.C.

The Division of the Commission named to review the Application will be comprised of the following Commission members:

Mr. N. Martin, Commissioner
and Chairman of the Division

Mr. H.J. Page, Commissioner
Mr. K.L. Hall, Commissioner

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

A pre-hearing conference dealing with the identification of principal issues, scheduling aspects, presentation of information, and any other matters that will enable the hearing to cover and review all aspects of the Applications will take place at 9:00 a.m. local time, Wednesday, December 12, 1990 at the Hotel Grand Pacific, 450 Quebec Street, Victoria, B.C.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Applications and supporting material are available for inspection at the Head Office of Vigas and Victoria Gas, Suite 110, 800 Tolmie Avenue, Victoria, B.C., at its office at #1 - 256 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, B.C., and at local municipal halls of the municipalities identified above.

The Applications and supporting material are also available for inspection at the office of the British Columbia Utilities Commission, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.

INTERVENTIONS


Intervenors and interested parties intending to be present at the public hearing and to give evidence or cross-examine witnesses is to provide written notice, to be received not later than Friday, December 28, 1990, to the Commission Secretary and to the Applicant. The notice should include a brief statement of the nature of the interest in the proceedings that would qualify the party for intervenor status.

Intervenors and interested parties intending to file a written submission must do so by Thursday, January 3, 1991. A copy of the submission is to be sent to the Commission Secretary, the Applicant and each registered Intervenor. An Intervenor list will be compiled and distributed by the Commission.

CLARIFICATION

Intervenors and interested parties intending to participate in the public hearing, and who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed, may contact Mr. R.J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Paul Gronert, Manager, Petroleum Engineering by telephone (660-4700, B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385) or in writing.

BY ORDER


Robert J. Pellatt
Commission Secretary

/ssc
BCUC/Orders/Van/Vic/Gas Comp/Order