



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

and

IN THE MATTER OF an Application by
BC Gas Inc.
and Commission Order No. G-115-91

BEFORE: J.D.V. Newlands,)
Deputy Chairman;)
N. Martin,) December 20, 1991
Commissioner; and)
K.L. Hall,)
Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On November 20, 1991 BC Gas Inc. ("BC Gas") filed with the Commission a 1992 Revenue Requirements Application ("the Application") to increase rates on an interim and permanent basis to all customers effective January 1, 1992, pursuant to Commission Order No. G-92-91 and Sections 64, 67 and 106 of the Utilities Commission Act; and
- B. The Interim Application requested the Commission approve a 3 percent general rate increase to all but non-captive BC Gas customers, effective with consumption on and after January 1, 1992; and
- C. Commission Order No. G-115-91 approved a 3 percent interim increase in rates to BC Gas customers in the Lower Mainland, Inland and Columbia Divisions subject to the utility filing divisional account information by December 16, 1991; and
- D. On December 16, 1991 BC Gas filed divisional account information which indicated that a 3 percent interim increase to Fort Nelson division gas customers was unnecessary; and
- E. The Commission has reviewed the Application and information filed to date into the matter and finds that the setting of a hearing is necessary and in the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. A public hearing into the Application is set to commence Tuesday, March 24, 1992, 8:30 a.m. at a location to be determined by way of future Commission Order and Notice of Public Hearing.
2. BC Gas is to file with the Commission a draft Notice of Public Hearing that will provide customers with such detailed information on the Application.
3. The Commission, following receipt of the draft Notice, will issue to the Applicant - BC Gas and other interested parties an Order and formal Notice of Public Hearing outlining:
 - Schedule of intervention, filing and submission dates.
 - The need for a pre-hearing conference.
 - The requirement for hearing locations outside of Vancouver, B.C.
 - Publication requirements for the Notice of Public Hearing.

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4. The Application by BC Gas for a 3-percent interim increase for the Fort Nelson Division is denied.
5. The existing rates in excess of the revenue requirements for Fort Nelson Division, as determined in the public hearing, is subject to refund with interest at the average prime rate of the principal bank with which BC Gas deals.
6. BC Gas is to file by January 20, 1992, further direct evidence on joint cost allocation, divisional capital structures and returns with respect to the divisional account information that was filed on December 16, 1991.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 24th day of December, 1991.

BY ORDER


J.D.V. Newlands
Deputy Chairman

/mmc



Application to Increase Rates - 1992

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Time: 8:30 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 1992
Location: Commission Hearing Room
6th Floor - 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C.

THE APPLICATION

On November 20, 1991, as required by Commission Order No. G-92-91 and pursuant to Sections 64, 67 and 106 of the Utilities Commission Act, BC Gas Inc. ("BC Gas") filed a 1992 Revenue Requirements Application ("the Application"). The Application requested approval of a 3 percent general interim rate increase to BC Gas customers, effective with consumption on and after January 1, 1992, subject to confirmation of the interim increase after a public hearing. Commission Order No. G-115-91 approved a 3 percent interim increase in rates to BC Gas customers in the Lower Mainland, Inland and Columbia Divisions, subject to the utility filing divisional account information by December 16, 1991. The Commission, after a review of the divisional account information, issued Order No. G-122-91 which denied an interim increase to Fort Nelson Division customers. It ordered a public hearing to commence Tuesday, March 24, 1992 on the full Application.

THE PUBLIC HEARING

The Application will be the subject of a public hearing to commence at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 24, 1992 in the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.

In advance of the public hearing, BC Gas will hold regional information meetings in its service area at the locations and on the dates noted below, to explain the Application to its customers. BC Gas will advertise the date, time and meeting address of each of the regional information sessions in community newspapers and ensure that local radio announcements provide the public with sufficient notice to attend the information meetings.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Cranbrook	February 17	Prince George	February 26
Kamloops	February 20	Chilliwack	March 3
Kelowna	February 24	Burnaby	March 4

A general summary of discussions of each meeting will be provided to the Commission. A copy of the Executive Summary and other pertinent information will be available during these meetings.

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

Mr. John G. McIntyre, Chairman of the BCUC and Chairman of the Division

Mr. Norris Martin, Commissioner

Mr. Harold J. Page, Commissioner

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Application, Executive Summary, supporting material and Commission Orders No. G-92-91, G-115-91 and G-122-91 are available for inspection at the Head Office of BC Gas Inc., 1066 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6E 3G3, and at its District Offices located throughout its service territory. The material is also available for inspection at the office of the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2N3.

A copy of the Executive Summary of the Application will be distributed by the Applicant to Intervenor and Interested Parties as they become registered with the Commission.

INTERVENTIONS

Any person intending to be present at the public hearing and to give evidence or cross-examine witnesses should provide written notice, to be received not later than Friday, February 14, 1992 to the Commission Secretary and to the Applicant, attention: Mr. David M. Masuhara, Vice-President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, at the respective addresses shown above. The notice should include a brief statement as to the nature of the interest in the proceedings.

Those who do not wish to intervene in the hearing but wish to comment on the Application or Executive Summary should write or fax the Commission Secretary to express their views.

SUBMISSIONS BY INTERVENORS/INTERESTED PARTIES

Written submissions to the hearing should be submitted, one copy to the Commission Secretary and one copy to the Applicant, prior to Friday, March 6, 1992. Any person requesting additional information of BC Gas by Monday, February 24, 1992 will receive a BC Gas response before Monday, March 9, 1992.

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

The Commission will hold a pre-hearing conference into the Application, at the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., commencing 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 1992, to address the timing of the public hearing, phases of the Application and evidence to be heard.

CLARIFICATION

Persons 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. Simon Wong, Manager, Rates and Finance - Petroleum, by telephone (660-4700) or (B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385), in writing or by fax transmission at 660-1102

BY ORDER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Pellatt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Pellatt
Commission Secretary

RJP/mmc