



SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6Z 2N3
CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-14-93

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

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

and

An Application by Pacific Coast Energy Corporation

BEFORE: M.K. Jaccard, Chair,)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner; and) March 4, 1993
H.J. Page, Commissioner)

WHEREAS:

- A. On July 28, 1992 Pacific Coast Energy Corporation ("PCEC") filed for Commission approval, its Cost of Service and Rate Base Application for determining the allowable cost of service for the first fiscal years 1991 and 1992. The Application was filed pursuant to the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act") and Special Direction No. 5 approved by Order-in-Council No. 990 dated July 11, 1991 issued pursuant to the authority of Section 7(4) of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Act ("the Special Direction"); and
- B. The Commission by Order No. G-117-92 set the Application down for public hearing to commence March 22, 1993 in Vancouver, B.C.; and
- C. On February 23, 1993 the Vancouver Island Gas Joint Venture ("the Joint Venture") complained to the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources ("MEMPR") that the Province was not taking an active role in the public hearing; and
- D. On February 26, 1993 the Joint Venture advised the Commission that in their opinion the information provided by PCEC in response to information requests was inadequate; and
- E. On March 1, 1993 the MEMPR advised the Commission that the Province had made extensive efforts to negotiate a settlement with PCEC on a number of issues, that the February 23, 1993 complaint by the Joint Venture was justified and that the public hearing schedule from the MEMPR's perspective was inappropriate; and
- F. On March 4, 1993 PCEC responded to the March 1, 1993 MEMPR letter and indicated that the public hearing into its Application should proceed as scheduled; and
- G. The Commission has reviewed the submissions and concludes that the public hearing should be postponed.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders PCEC as follows:

- 1. The public hearing into the Application for Rate Base and Cost of Service, that was set to commence March 22, 1993 in Vancouver, B.C., is postponed.
- 2. The Commission will advise the Applicant, the Joint Venture, other Registered Intervenor and Interested Parties on a new public hearing schedule by way of a future Order and Notice of Public Hearing.

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3. A pre-hearing conference into this matter is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. March 24, 1993 in the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. in order to discuss a schedule of information exchanges that will ensure that all parties will be fully informed and prepared to proceed with the hearing when it is rescheduled for the fall of this year.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 5th day of March, 1993.

BY ORDER



Dr. Mark K. Jaccard
Chair

/mmc