



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

BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER.....G-7-94

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 Northern Gas Ltd.

BEFORE: M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson) January 27, 1994

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 2, 1993 Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. ("PNG") applied to the Commission for interim and permanent rate revisions effective January 1, 1994 ("the Application"), pursuant to Sections 64 and 101 of the Utilities Commission Act; and
- B. The Commission, by Order No. G-121-93, approved an interim increase of 2.68 percent which was based on a return on common equity of 12.2 percent and a common equity component of 31.41 percent. The Commission also stated that the matter of a public hearing or the use of an Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism into the Application will be the subject of a further Order; and
- C. The Commission, by Order No. G-129-93, established a provisional hearing date of March 21, 1994 for the commencement of a public hearing into the Application; and
- D. The Commission, by Order No. G-4-94, set up a separate joint hearing to deal with the rates of return on common equity for certain utilities under its jurisdiction, including PNG, that will commence on April 5, 1994; and
- E. On January 20, 1994 PNG provided a response to Commission staff Information Requests and met with its large industrial customers on January 25, 1994 with respect to the resolution of potential issues.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders PNG as follows:

- 1. A Pre-hearing Conference will be held in the Robson Square Conference Centre, Vancouver, B.C. at 9:00 a.m., February 28, 1994. The purpose of the conference is to identify the process to resolve the potential issues (except those relating to Return on Common Equity and Capital Structure) and for participants to clarify or answer any questions regarding the Application.
- 2. Should a public hearing be required, it will commence on March 21, 1994 with the time and place to be determined by a future Commission Order.
- 3. Intervenor and interested parties are to advise the Commission Secretary, in writing, of their intention to participate in the proceedings by February 11, 1994.

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4. All interested parties who wish to participate as Intervenor shall file any submissions or evidence by February 24, 1994 with Mr. R.J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, B.C. Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2N3. Questions regarding the above should be directed in writing or by telephone to Mr. Pellatt or Mr. Simon Wong, Manager, Rates and Finance, Petroleum of the Commission at (604) 660-4700, or BC Toll Free 1-800-663-1385.
5. Interested parties intending to make requests for additional information from PNG should do so as soon as possible, but no later than February 11, 1994. Information requests shall be responded to by PNG before February 23, 1994.
6. All parties intending to apply for Participant Funding must file a budget by February 24, 1994 consistent with the Commission's Guidelines as outlined in Commission Order No. G-117-93, copies of which are available in PNG's district offices.
7. To further the Alternate Dispute Resolution process, PNG intends to convene meeting(s) with Registered Intervenor to seek resolution of issues in advance of the February 28, 1994 Pre-hearing Conference.
8. PNG will publish, in display-ad format, the attached Notice in the business sections of The Vancouver Sun and The Province newspapers, and in local newspapers in its service area before February 8, 1994.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 28th day of January, 1994.

BY ORDER


Dr. Mark K. Jaccard
Chairperson

Attachment



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PACIFIC NORTHERN GAS LTD.
1994 Revenue Requirements

NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: February 28, 1994
Location: Conference Room No. 2
Robson Square Conference Centre
800 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C.

THE APPLICATION

Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. ("PNG") applied to the Commission to increase rates to all customers effective January 1, 1994. The Commission, by Order No. G-121-93, approved an interim rate increase of 2.68 percent and indicated that the Application would either be reviewed at a public hearing or by the use of an Alternative Dispute Resolution process to resolve the issues. The Commission also by Order No. G-129-93 set a provisional hearing date of March 21, 1994.

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference into the Application on February 28, 1994 in order to identify the process to resolve the potential issues (except those relating to Return on Common Equity and Capital Structure) and to clarify or answer questions of the participants.

Should a public hearing be required, it will commence on March 21, 1994 at a location to be determined by way of a future Commission order and notice.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Application, supporting material and Commission Orders No. G-117-93, G-121-93, G-129-93 and G-4-94 are available for inspection at the following locations:

Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.

Head Office: Suite 1400, 1185 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G6.

District Offices: Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Houston, Smithers, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert, B.C.

An Executive Summary of the Application is available to Interested Parties, upon request from PNG at no charge.

Copies of the Application and supporting material are also available for inspection at the office of the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3

INTERVENTIONS

Intervenors and interested parties are to advise the Commission Secretary of their intention to participate in the proceedings by February 11, 1994. To further the Alternate Dispute Resolution process, PNG intends to convene meeting(s) with Registered Intervenors to seek resolution of issues in advance of the Pre-hearing Conference. Any person wishing to participate as an intervenor shall file their submission with the Commission Secretary and PNG by February 24, 1994.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Registered Intervenor or Interested Parties requesting additional information from the Applicant should do so as soon as possible, but no later than February 11, 1994. Information Requests shall be responded to by PNG before February 23, 1994.

SUBMISSIONS BY INTERVENORS

Written evidence from Intervenor is required to be filed, one copy each, with the Commission Secretary and PNG, by February 24, 1994.

PARTICIPANT FUNDING

All parties intending to apply for Participant Funding must file a budget by February 24, 1994 consistent with the Commission's Policy and Rate Sheet as outlined in Order No. G-117-93.

CLARIFICATION

Persons intending to participate in the Pre-hearing Conference and the process, 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 at 660-4700, or B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385, or in writing to the above address or faxed to 660-1102. The Commission can also be reached on the Government Electronic Mail System ("GEMS") at RPELLAT@BCSC or, on the Internet at RPELLAT@VAXBCSC.GOV.BC.CA

BY ORDER



Robert J. Pellatt
Commission Secretary