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BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-25-96

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

and

An Application by Centra Gas Fort St. John Inc.
for Approval of 1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements and Rate Design

BEFORE: M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson) March 7, 1996

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 20, 1995 Centra Gas Fort St. John Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission by letter, and on January 8, 1996 the utility filed its detailed application, to amend rates on an interim and permanent basis to customers, effective January 1, 1996 for the test period 1996 to 1997 ("the Application"), pursuant to Sections 64 and 104 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"); and
- B. The Application requested the existing rate structure be declared as interim, effective January 1, 1996, submitting that the utility's net revenue deficiency of \$201,852 equivalent to a 1.1 percent or \$0.0378/GJ average increase for the test period, be recovered through rates effective May 1, 1996; and
- C. The Commission by Order No. G-2-96 set the existing Centra Gas rate structure as interim effective January 1, 1996, issued a regulatory timetable including the setting of a public hearing for May 6 to 10, 1996 in Fort St. John and required Centra Gas to publish a Notice of Public Hearing; and
- D. On February 14, 1996 Centra Gas filed rate design evidence which incorporated the net revenue deficiency and proposed rate changes to some customer classes that are greater than 1.1 percent. Centra Gas also amended its Application to make the rate changes effective January 1, 1996; and
- E. On March 1, 1996 Centra Gas advised the Commission that the Application had been discussed with its stakeholder group and that the parties wish to adopt a Negotiated Settlement Process on its 1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements; and
- F. The Commission has reviewed the Centra Gas/stakeholder request and agrees to amend the regulatory timetable as set out in Order No. G-2-96.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

- 1. The Pre-Hearing Conference scheduled to take place on March 26, 1996 at the Pioneer Inn in Fort St. John is cancelled.

2. The Commission approves for Centra Gas a Negotiated Settlement Process for the resolution of the 1996 and 1997 revenue requirements and sets the following amended regulatory timetable:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Date</u>
Centra Gas responses to Staff Information Requests	March 18, 1996
Intervenor/Other Information Requests sent to Centra Gas	March 26, 1996
Responses by Centra Gas to Information Requests	April 5, 1996
Settlement Negotiations	April 15-19, 1996
Settlement Proposal Circulated with Written Concurrence or Comment Received Before	April 26, 1996
Oral Public Hearing (unchanged)	May 6-10, 1996
3. Centra Gas, by way of a Notice Published in local newspapers in its service area, is to advise customers of the changes to the regulatory schedule, as soon as possible. Centra Gas is to provide the Commission with a copy of the Notice in advance of publication.	
4. In the event that the Negotiated Settlement Process is unsuccessful, Commission staff will conduct a Pre-Hearing Conference at the end of negotiations during the week of April 15 to 19, 1996. As a result of this possible action, it is important for all participants to register with the Commission.	
5. The rate design component of the Centra Gas Application will be dealt with at the public hearing scheduled for May 6 to 10, 1996.	

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 11th day of March, 1996.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Dr. Mark K. Jaccard
Chairperson