

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



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER  
NUMBER G-71-96

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

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

and

An Application by BC Gas Utility Ltd.  
for Approval of its 1996 Rate Design Application

**BEFORE:** M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson ) June 28, 1996

### **O R D E R**

#### **WHEREAS:**

- A. On June 7, 1996 BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") filed with the Commission its 1996 Rate Design Application ("the Application") in accordance with its commitment to file such an application during the 1996 to 1998 Revenue Requirements Negotiated Settlement process and Order No. G-99-95; and
- B On June 27, 1996 the Commission held a Pre-hearing Conference, pursuant to Order No. G-63-96, to establish a timetable and process for the public review of the Application.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission orders as follows:

- 1. The timetable, attached as Appendix A, summarizes the key dates in the review process. Further details are provided in the attached Notice of Public Hearing. The hearing will commence at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, September 23, 1996 in the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.
- 2. BC Gas is to distribute copies of the Application, Commission Orders No. G-63-96 and G-71-96 to all Intervenors as they become registered with the Commission. BC Gas is to distribute a copy of an Executive Summary and Order No. G-71-96 to interested parties.
- 3. BC Gas is to publish, in display ad format, the attached Notice of Public Hearing in the business section of the Vancouver Sun and Province and in local community newspapers in its service areas. BC Gas is to advise customers, by way of a notice printed on the next customer bill, of the Application, public hearing date, the availability of an Executive Summary and contact telephone numbers for further details.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 28th day of June, 1996.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Dr. Mark K. Jaccard  
Chairperson

**TIMETABLE**

**BC GAS UTILITY LTD.**  
1996 Rate Design Application

| <u>ACTION</u>   | <u>DATE (1996)</u>                   |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Deadline for publication of Hearing Notice                                | Monday, July 8                       |
| <u>Workshop</u> - Industrial Terms & Conditions                           | Tuesday, July 9                      |
| <u>Workshop</u> - Review of Studies                                       | Tuesday, July 16                     |
| <u>Workshop</u> - Complete review of Studies.<br>Review of proposed rates | Wednesday, July 17                   |
| Negotiation Days for Industrial Terms & Conditions                        | Thursday, July 18<br>Friday, July 19 |
| Deadline for requests for Participant Funding                             | Friday, July, 26                     |
| Deadline for filing of Commission Staff Information Request #1            | Friday, August 2                     |
| Deadline for filing of Intervenor's Information Requests #1               | Friday, August 2                     |
| BC Gas Response to Intervenor's Information Requests                      | 2 weeks after receipt                |
| BC Gas response to Staff Information Request #1                           | 3 weeks after receipt                |
| Pre-hearing Conference / Negotiation day                                  | Wednesday, September 4               |
| Deadline for filing of Intervenor Evidence                                | Friday, September 13                 |
| Public Hearing  | Monday, September 23                 |

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## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **BC GAS UTILITY LTD. 1996 RATE DESIGN APPLICATION**

Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Date: Monday, September 23, 1996  
Location: Commission Hearing Room  
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street  
Vancouver, B.C.

### **THE APPLICATION**

BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") applied to the Commission June 7, 1996 to redesign its rates for all customer classes in the Inland, Columbia and Lower Mainland regions. The application provides for more of the Utility's costs to be collected through fixed charges rather than commodity charges. It proposes that a number of simplifications be made in the terms and conditions of service for industrial customers. It undertakes to more closely align rates with costs for each customer class, with the overall result that rates to residential and commercial customers are generally increased by about 3 percent while rates to industrial customers are generally decreased. This redesign of customer rates is proposed to take effect January 1, 1997.

### **PROCESS**

- As outlined in a timetable contained in Order No. G-71-96, BC Gas will conduct various workshops (on specific and technical issues) for Intervenor and Interested Parties on July, 9, 16, & 17, 1996 commencing at 8:30 A.M. daily in its main floor meeting rooms located at 1111 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C.
- A final Pre-hearing Conference will be held at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 4, 1996 in the Commission's Hearing Room in order to identify the principal outstanding issues, to explore the potential for and scheduling of negotiations on certain issues, and to make final arrangements for the hearing.

### **PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION**

The Application, supporting material and Commission Orders No. G-63-96, and G-71-96 are available for inspection at the following locations:

#### **BC Gas Utility Ltd.**

Head Office: 1111 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6E 4M4.

District Offices: Kelowna, Penticton, Kamloops, Prince George and Cranbrook, B.C.

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 who did not register prior to the initial pre-hearing conference in June are to advise the Commission Secretary of their intention to participate in the proceedings, in writing, by Friday, July 26, 1996.

## **INFORMATION REQUESTS**

Registered Intervenors or Interested Parties requesting additional information from the Applicant should do so as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, August 2, 1996. Information Requests shall be responded to by BC Gas as soon as possible, but no later than 2 weeks after receipt.

## **SUBMISSIONS BY INTERVENORS**

Written submissions or evidence from Intervenors is required to be filed, one copy each, with the Commission Secretary and BC Gas, by Friday, September 13, 1996.

## **PARTICIPANT FUNDING**

All parties intending to apply for Participant Funding must file a budget by Friday, July 26, 1996 consistent with the Commission's Policy and Rate Sheet as outlined in Order No. G-117-93. Copies of the Participant Funding Policy and Rate Sheet are available upon request.

## **CLARIFICATION**

Persons intending to participate in the workshops, Pre-hearing Conference or in the public hearing process, and who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed, may contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, the Information Services Group, or Mr. Paul Gronert, Manager, Engineering; 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 Internet and the Government Electronic Mail System ("GEMS") at [bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca) .

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Robert J. Pellatt