

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



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-94-96

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 Centra Gas Whistler Inc.
and Complaints into Increased Propane Rates at Whistler, B.C.

BEFORE: M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson) September 19, 1996

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On July 29, 1996 Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Gas") filed an application with the Commission to pass-through a rate increase of \$2.193/GJ, to customers for propane grid service, effective September 1, 1996. The rate increase represents the forecasted cost of propane from September 1, 1996 to December 31, 1997 compared to the cost currently recovered in rates. The proposed increase will amount to approximately 22 percent for the average residential customer; and
- B. During September, 1996 the Commission received complaints from customers concerning the proposed increase in propane grid service rates; and
- C. The Commission has reviewed the relevant information and has determined that the issue of propane supply and cost recovery at Whistler, B.C. requires further review.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission will hold a Public Informational Meeting at Whistler, B.C. on October 3, 1996 commencing at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will discuss Centra Gas' application to increase propane rates, the customer complaints and will explore available alternatives.
2. Centra Gas is directed to appear at the meeting, with informed Company representatives available to answer questions from customers in attendance. Centra Gas is to provide copies of its application, information on its propane acquisition efforts, and any other useful information it feels is necessary to provide answers to customer concerns.

3. The Commission will delay its review of the pass-through application until the Public Informational meeting has been completed.
4. Centra Gas will arrange for publication of the Notice of Public Informational Meeting in each issue of the Whistler Question newspaper, in advance of the October 3, 1996 meeting as set out in Appendix A to this Order. The advertisements are to be supplemented by the use of spot radio ads and community service announcements, as well as posting the Notice on community bulletin boards, so as to provide adequate public notice to customers in the Whistler service area.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 20th day of September, 1996.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Dr. Mark K. Jaccard
Chairperson

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL
MEETING**

**Into Propane Supply Costs for the
Centra Gas Whistler Grid System**

ISSUES

- Centra Gas has filed an application to pass-through a cost of propane increase of \$2.193 per gigajoule to customers of the Whistler propane grid system, effective September 1, 1996. For the average residential customer, their annual bill will increase by approximately 22 percent.
- A number of customers have complained about the proposed rate increase.
- The Commission requires that the issue of propane prices to grid system customers be explained by Centra Gas representatives at a Public Informational Meeting.
- The Commission will delay its review of the Application to increase rates until after the Public Informational Meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING FORMAT

- The Public Informational Meeting will be held at the Myrtle Philip Community Centre in Whistler, B.C.
- Centra Gas representatives will present the application, cover aspects of propane supply contracting, including the options to recover the forecasted increase in the cost of propane.
- Following the Centra Gas presentation, the meeting will be open to oral and written presentations by all interested and affected parties. Questions may be directed to Centra Gas officials.

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Thursday, October 3, 1996 | 7:00 p.m. to completion | Myrtle Philip Community Centre in Whistler 6195 Lorimer Street, Whistler Telephone: (604) 938-3133 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|

CLARIFICATION

For those persons wishing to make a presentation at the Public Informational Meeting, a copy of the Centra Gas rate increase application will be available at the meeting and will also be available at the Centra Gas office in Whistler, B.C. Persons intending to participate in the Meeting who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed may (in writing, by telephone or facsimile), contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary or Mr. Philip Nakoneshny, Senior Financial Analyst - Petroleum at:

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor
900 Howe Street
Box 250
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2N3

B.C. Toll Free Telephone: 1-800-663-1385

Facsimile: (604)-660-1102

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt
Commission Secretary