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CANADA



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER  
NUMBER G-117-96

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

and

IN THE MATTER OF the Special Direction  
to the British Columbia Utilities Commission by the  
Lieutenant Governor in Council through  
Order in Council 1510, dated December 13, 1995

and

An Application by Centra Gas British Columbia Inc.  
for Approval of its 1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements

**BEFORE:** M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson ) December 12, 1996

## O R D E R

### WHEREAS:

- A. On September 27, 1996 Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission pursuant to Section 28 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), and the Special Direction issued by the Lieutenant Governor in Council through Order In Council No. 1510 dated December 13, 1995, which provides the regulatory framework under which Centra Gas will operate until 2003, for approval of its 1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements and deficiencies ("the Application"); and
- B. The Application covers a review of Centra Gas' cost of service for 1996 and 1997 that will not impact on customer rates until after December 31, 2002 and will apply to all customers located on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast that resulted from the 1995 restructuring of utility assets approved by Commission Orders No. G-105-95 and G-108-95; and
- C. The Commission reviewed the Application and issued Order No. G-99-96 and Notice of Public Hearing, which scheduled a December 11, 1996 Pre-Hearing Conference to discuss potential issues in the Application; timing of the ADR or public hearing process; and for participants to clarify and have questions answered regarding the Application; and
- D. On November 12, 1996 Centra Gas applied pursuant to Sections 51 and 53 of the Act for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate a third compressor at the Coquitlam Compressor Station ("the Compressor Application"); and
- E. On November 15, 1996 Centra Gas applied to the Commission for a deferral account for costs associated with a gas management services review ("the GMSR Application"); and
- F. On December 9, 1996 Centra Gas applied to the Commission pursuant to Sections 64 and 66 of the Act and the Special Direction to increase rates for New Customers, effective January 1, 1997 ("the New Customer Rate Application"); and

G. On December 11, 1996 a Pre-Hearing Conference was held in Vancouver to discuss hearing issues, procedures and timetable.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission, following input from the Pre-Hearing Conference, orders the following with respect to the Application:

1. The Compressor, GMSR and New Customer Rate Applications will be added to the issues to be dealt with in this Hearing Process.
2. An ADR process with respect to the Applications will commence at 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 3, 1997 in the British Columbia Utilities Commission Hearing Room, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2N3. A public hearing, if required, will commence at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 18, 1997 in the Commission Hearing Room.
3. Centra Gas is directed to use its best efforts to provide an update of its 1996 financial results and fully answer Commission Staff Information Request No. 1, Questions 1.4(b), 1.5(a), 3.4(a), 3.5(b), 3.10 (in similar detail as Schedules 47 to 49) and 7.0. In Question 7.0(d) Operation & Maintenance - Schedule 2B, Centra Gas is to provide the combined Centra Gas and PCEC results for 1992 to 1997 in similar detail as Schedules 47 to 49. Centra Gas is to provide the responses as they are completed and to file all responses by December 31, 1996.
4. A revised Regulatory Timetable for this Application is attached as Appendix A which includes the revisions from this Order.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 13th day of December, 1996.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Lorna R. Barr  
Deputy Chairperson

Attachment

**REGULATORY TIMETABLE**

**CENTRA GAS BRITISH COLUMBIA INC.**  
1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements Application

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>DATE (1996 &amp; 1997)</u>
Deadline for Centra Gas to file any further evidence	Monday, December 23
Deadline for Centra Gas to update 1996 financial results and provide answers to Commission Staff Information Request No. 1	Tuesday December 31
Deadline for issue of further information requests and intervenors to file evidence/testimony	Monday, January 6
Deadline for Centra Gas to respond to all information requests	Monday, January 20
ADR process begins in Vancouver	Monday, February 3
Public hearing, if required, begins in Vancouver	Tuesday, February 18

**CENTRA GAS BRITISH COLUMBIA INC.  
1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements Application**

Schedules and Tables to Update with November 1996 Year to Date Actual Results

**SCHEDULES**

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Revenue Deficiency Continuity
2	Revenue Requirement-to reflect updated schedules
3	1996 and 1997 Rate Base-to reflect 1996 actuals
5	1996 Gross Plant Continuity
7	1996 Accumulated Depreciation
8	1997 Accumulated Depreciation
10	Cash Working Capital
18	Deferred Expenses
19	Contributions in Aid of Construction
21	1996 Capital Structure
30 and 31	Energy Sales Summary Plus total energy sales revenue
36	Transportation Service Revenue Summary
39	Other Revenue
40	Cost of Sales - Summary- Update all (1996 DSM sales should not be zero)
43 to 49	O&M Expenses
53	Large Corporation Tax
54	BC Capital Tax

**TABLES**

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Description</u>
14.1	14.2	Annual Customer Additions according to rate class (please provide as many months as possible)
16.1 to 16.24	16.1 to 16.73	O & M Tables
17.1 to 17.4	17.1 to 17.6	Shared Services
17.6	17.8	Shared Services
17.7	17.9	Shared Services