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BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER C-7-97

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IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

an Application by BC Gas Utility Ltd.
for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
for its Automated Mapping and Facilities Management Project

BEFORE: L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
and Acting Chair) July 31, 1997
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

WHEREAS:

- A. Commission Order No. G-85-97 dated July 23, 1997, approved the terms of a negotiated settlement for the BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") 1998-2002 Revenue Requirements application and the settlement terms provided that certain capital projects would require Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") applications; and
- B. On July 30, 1997, pursuant to Section 45 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), BC Gas applied to the Commission for a CPCN for approval of its Automated Mapping and Facilities Management (AM/FM) Project. The AM/FM project will utilize computer graphics and database management system technologies to integrate gas facilities information with digital landbase and facilities graphics to a digital format that will phase out paper maps, drawings and records; and
- C. The AM/FM project is expected to cost approximately \$15 million, to be implemented in four phases over a three and one-half year period commencing immediately, and is expected to be fully implemented by 2001; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed the costs, timing and justification for the AM/FM project contained in the BC Gas application and has determined that its approval is necessary and in the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. Pursuant to Section 45 of the Act, a CPCN is granted to BC Gas for its AM/FM project in accordance with its July 30, 1997 application that provided estimated project costs, timing and justification. The Commission expects that the AM/FM project to be completed within the forecast direct cost of approximately \$15 million and is to be funded within the three-year revenue requirement negotiated settlement approved by Order No. G-85-97.
2. BC Gas is to provide the Commission with annual updates, and a final project cost report in accordance with a format agreed to by Commission staff. The Commission will review the required final report with respect to capital costs, overhead allocation and any cost over-runs in order to determine eligibility for rate base treatment.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 1st day of August, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair and
Acting Chair