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CANADA



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

and

Application for Participant Assistance Cost Award by an Intervenor  
into the Automatic Adjustment Mechanism Proceeding for the 1997 Return on Equity  
and  
Order No. G-103-96 - Participant Assistance Cost Awards

**BEFORE:** L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair )  
and Acting Chair ) July 2, 1997  
K.L. Hall, Commissioner )  
F.C. Leighton, Commissioner )

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. The Commission, by Letter No. L-61-96 dated December 2, 1996, approved for Commission regulated utilities, BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas"), Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. ("PNG") and West Kootenay Power Ltd. ("WKP"), the allowed Rate of Return on Common Equity ("ROE") for 1997; and
- B. In Letter No. L-61-96 the Commission requested comments from the public by January 31, 1997 concerning any aspects relating to the automatic adjustment mechanism currently in place; and
- C. The British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Centre ("PIAC") reviewed the matter, issued its response and, on June 23, 1997, requested that the costs associated with its review be reimbursed; and
- D. The Commission discussed the participant cost assistance claim having regard to the criteria and rates set out in Order No. G-103-96; and
- E. The Commission has determined that PIAC's review of this matter requires reimbursement in accordance with approved guidelines.

**NOW THEREFORE** pursuant to Section 118(1) of the Utilities Commission Act, the Commission orders BC Gas, PNG and WKP to reimburse PIAC in the total amount of \$1,232.18 as a cost award relating to the ROE proceeding as follows:

<u>Utility</u>	<u>Pro-Rata Portion</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BC Gas	45%	\$554.48
PNG	25%	308.05
WKP	30%	369.65
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	100%	\$1,232.18
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**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 10th day of July, 1997.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Lorna R. Barr  
Deputy Chair and  
Acting Chair