



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

and

An Application by Squamish Gas Co. Ltd.
for Approval of Utility Operations for Fiscal Periods August 6, 1991 to December 31, 1995

BEFORE: L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
and Acting Chair) November 27, 1997
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. The Commission, by Order No. G-56-96, directed Squamish Gas Co. Ltd. ("Squamish Gas") to file an application by August 31, 1996, covering utility operations for the fiscal periods August 6, 1991 to December 31, 1995, as required by the Ministry of Employment and Investment ("the Ministry") in its letter dated May 31, 1996; and
- B. On August 30, 1996 Squamish Gas filed its Application and, by Order No. G-88-96, the Commission ordered that a pre-hearing conference be held on October 9, 1996; and
- C. As a result of information provided by the participants at the pre-hearing conference, the Commission held a pre-hearing workshop on October 24, 1996 that provided customers with information about the Application and discussed alternative processes for the public review of the Application; and
- D. At the workshop Squamish Gas indicated that it had replied to information requests issued by the Ministry, and discussions regarding the Application were ongoing between Squamish Gas and the Ministry. Both parties agreed to make the information responses public; and
- E. The Commission, by Orders No. G-109-96 and G-129-96, set down a Regulatory Timetable for the Application which included a Negotiated Settlement procedure and a deadline for the completion of negotiations; and
- F. The Ministry and Squamish Gas concluded negotiations in April 1997 ("the Settlement Agreement"), for the 1991 to 1995 Cost of Service Review which resulted in agreement on the following:
 - rate base determination,
 - cost of service,
 - refunds due to the Province from Squamish Gas for 1991-1995,
 - disposition of the Rate Stabilization Agreement ("RSA") refund,
 - a cost of service methodology for the remaining term of the Squamish Gas RSA; and
- G. On November 18, 1997 Squamish Gas advised the Commission of the Settlement Agreement and provided copies to the Ministry and Registered Intervenors; and
- H. The Commission has reviewed the document and finds that a Regulatory Timetable should be established.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission issues the following Regulatory Timetable for the review of the Squamish Gas August 1996 Application and the Settlement Agreement:

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

ACTION	DATE
Deadline for information requests to Squamish Gas and the Ministry of Employment and Investment	December 5, 1997
Deadline for replies to information requests	December 19, 1997
Deadline for submissions by Registered Intervenors	January 7, 1998

2. Following completion of the Regulatory Timetable, the Commission will issue an Order setting out the appropriate course of action for review of the Settlement Agreement, either by way of written hearing, negotiated settlement or public hearing.
3. The Commission will distribute a copy of this Order to Registered Intervenors in the proceeding.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 27th day of November, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair
and Acting Chair