

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



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-95

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385
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IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Application by Centra Gas British Columbia Inc.
for Approval of its 1998/99 Revenue Requirements

BEFORE: K.L. Hall Commissioner) September 4, 1997
F.C. Leighton, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On August 12, 1997 Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied, pursuant to Section 23 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act") and Order in Council No. 1510, 1995, for approval of its 1996 actual revenue deficiency and, its forecasted 1998 and 1999 revenue deficiencies ("the Application") in the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast service areas. The Application is a result of an increase in rate base which is required to serve new customers when actual rates are less than the cost of service; and
- B. The Commission, in its desire to deal efficiently with issues related to the Application, requires that an initial timetable and a process for dealing with the issues be established.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission will hold a Pre-Hearing Conference on Centra Gas' Application on Monday, September 29, 1997 commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. The Pre-Hearing Conference will address procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - scheduling,
 - completeness of the Application,
 - identification of principal issues,
 - process (workshops, information requests, settlement negotiations),
 - location(s) of the hearing; and
 - other matters that will enable the proceeding to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.

2. Centra Gas will publish, in display-ad format, the attached Notice of Pre-Hearing Conference in the business sections of The Vancouver Sun, the Province and the Victoria Times Colonist, and in all local community newspapers in its service areas by September 15, 1997.
3. Intervenors and Interested Parties who would like to receive a copy of the Application should immediately request a copy from Centra Gas and inform the Commission, in writing by September 29, 1997, of their intention to intervene and/or to attend the Pre-Hearing Conference.
4. Following the results of the Pre-Hearing Conference, the Commission will issue an Order and a Regulatory Timetable outlining further steps to be followed in the review of the Application.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 4th day of September, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Frank C. Leighton
Commissioner

Attachment

ROBERT J. PELLATT
COMMISSION SECRETARY



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NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

CENTRA GAS BRITISH COLUMBIA INC. Application for Approval of its 1998/99 Revenue Requirements

Date: Monday, September 29, 1997
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: B.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Room
Sixth Floor - 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C.

THE APPLICATION

On August 12, 1997 Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied, pursuant to Section 23 of the Utilities Commission Act and Order in Council No. 1510, 1995, for approval of its actual 1996 revenue deficiency and its forecasted 1998 and 1999 revenue deficiencies. The revenue deficiencies are a result of rate base growth to serve new customers in the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast service areas which have rates that are insufficient to cover Centra Gas' cost of service.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission will hold a Pre-Hearing Conference on Monday, September 29, 1997 to discuss procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- scheduling,
- completeness of the Application,
- identification of principal issues,
- process (workshops, information requests, settlement negotiations),
- location(s) of the hearings; and
- other matters that will enable the proceeding to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Application is available for inspection at the following Centra Gas locations:

Head Office: 1675 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3V3

District offices: Victoria, Sidney, Duncan, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, Courtenay,
Campbell River, Colwood, Powell River, Sechelt

An Executive Summary of the Application is available to interested parties upon request from Centra Gas at no charge.

Copies of the Application and supporting material are also available for inspection at the office of the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3.

INTERVENTIONS

Intervenors and interested parties who would like to receive a copy of the Application should immediately request a copy from Centra Gas and inform the Commission, in writing by September 29, 1997, of their intention to intervene and/or attend the Pre-Hearing Conference.

PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE

All parties intending to apply for Participant Assistance and who wish to attend the pre-hearing conference must do so consistent with the Commission's Policy and Rate Sheet as outlined in Order No G-103-96. Copies of the Participant Assistance Policy and Rate Sheet will be sent to all parties registering with the Commission.

CLARIFICATION

Persons intending to participate in the Centra Gas Pre-Hearing Conference, and who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed, may contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, the Information Services Group or Mr. Philip Nakoneshny, Senior Financial Analyst as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700

E-Mail: bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca

Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

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

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt