

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



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-135-97

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

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 to Increase Natural Gas Rates to Pioneer Customers

BEFORE: K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner) December 18, 1997

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 15, 1997, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas"), pursuant to Section 60 of the Utilities Commission Act, the Special Direction by Order in Council No. 1510, 1995, and under the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act, filed for Commission approval an application to amend its schedule of rates to natural gas customers located on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast; and
- B. Pursuant to the Special Direction, Centra Gas surveyed competitive fuel oil markets on Vancouver Island and reported that an increase in rates charged to Pioneer Customers under its Closed Rate Schedules is required effective January 1, 1998; and
- C. Centra Gas advised that Rate Rider B, that was approved by Order No. G-62-97 and terminated by Order No. G-117-97 for LGS-1 and LGS-2 customers, should be further reinstated due to recent increases in the competitive fuel oil markets; and
- D. Since Centra Gas is committed to stable rates for a minimum of 3 months and that the most recent change in rates occurred on November 1, 1997, Centra Gas requested that the rate increase for the month of January, 1998 be placed into the existing deferral account approved by Order No. G-62-97. Centra Gas also indicated that it will wait for the February, 1998 oil price survey to propose a pass-through of the increase; and

E. The Commission has reviewed the December 15, 1997 application and finds that approval of the January 1, 1998 changes are required.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. Centra Gas' December 15, 1997 application to increase the rate levels between 3.6 percent and 3.7 percent to Pioneer Customers in the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast service areas is approved effective January 1, 1998. The differences between the actual rates and the rates approved by this Order are to be placed in the deferral account approved under Order No. G-62-97.
2. The rates to the Apartment/Multi-Family Dwelling ("ACR-1") rate schedule are approved to be increased between 5.2 percent and 5.9 percent, effective January 1, 1998.
3. The Commission approves the reinstatement of Rate Rider B for LGS-1 and LGS-2 customers, effective February 1, 1998.
4. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the changes in rates, effective January 1 and February 1, 1998, by way of customer notice.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 22nd day of December, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Kenneth L. Hall
Commissioner