

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



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-16-98

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 a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to
Construct and Operate a Natural Gas Pipeline From Squamish to Whistler

and

An Application by Centra Gas Whistler Inc.
for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to
Convert Customers from Propane to Natural Gas Service and Retire the Propane Facilities in Whistler

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair) February 12, 1998

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 19, 1997, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas BC") applied to the Commission, pursuant to Sections 45 and 46 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to construct a 168.3 mm (6 inch) diameter high-pressure natural gas transmission pipeline lateral, at 6100 kPa (885 psig), a distance of 60 km from the Centra Gas BC main transmission pipeline at Squamish to Whistler ("the Squamish to Whistler Gas Pipeline Project"). One regulator station would be constructed at the existing Squamish, B.C. meter station site and two meter regulator stations would be constructed in the Resort Municipality of Whistler; and
- B. On December 19, 1997, Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Gas Whistler") applied to the Commission, pursuant to Sections 45 and 46 of the Act, for a CPCN to convert propane customers' equipment to natural gas use and to retire the propane vapourization facilities in Whistler (the "Whistler Propane Conversion Project"); and
- C. The Commission, by Order No. G-8-98, set the Applications down for a pre-hearing conference which took place on February 10, 1998 in Whistler, B.C.; and

D. Following input from the pre-hearing conference the Commission has determined that a Regulatory Agenda and Timetable is required to be established.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Regulatory Timetable summarizing the key dates in the public review process of the Centra Gas Applications is attached as Appendix A to this Order.
2. Centra Gas is to publish, in display-ad format, as soon as possible, the Notice of Public Hearing attached as Appendix B to this Order in the business sections of the Vancouver Sun and Province and in all local community newspapers in the Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton areas.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 16th day of February, 1998.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair

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REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Centra Gas British Columbia Inc./Centra Gas Whistler Inc.

ACTION	DATE (1998)
Filing of initial Information Requests to Centra Gas *	Friday, February 20
Centra Gas to respond to Information Requests	Friday, March 6
Application Workshop 10:00 a.m. Whistler Fairways Hotel & Resort 4005 Whistler Way (Lower Village)	Wednesday, March 11
Intervenor Evidence to be filed	Monday, March 23
Public Hearing Tuesday, April 7 10:00 a.m. Whistler Fairways Hotel & Resort 4005 Whistler Way (Lower Village)	

* Further Information Requests can be made at any time.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Centra Gas British Columbia Inc.
Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
for Approval to Construct and Operate a Natural Gas Pipeline between Squamish and Whistler
and

Centra Gas Whistler Inc.
Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
for Approval to Convert Propane Customers' Equipment to Natural Gas Use and Retire the Propane
Facilities in Whistler

Workshop

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 1998
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Whistler Fairways Hotel & Resort
4005 Whistler Way (Lower Village)
Whistler, B.C.
Telephone: (604) 932-2522

Public Hearing

Date: Tuesday, April 7
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Whistler Fairways Hotel & Resort
4005 Whistler Way (Lower Village)
Whistler, B.C.
Telephone: (604) 932-2522

THE APPLICATIONS

- A. Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas BC") applied to the Commission on December 19, 1997, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to construct and operate a 168.3 mm (6 inch) diameter high-pressure 6100 kPa (885 psig) natural gas transmission pipeline lateral from the Centra Gas BC main transmission pipeline at Squamish to Whistler ("the Squamish to Whistler Gas Pipeline Project"), a distance of 60 km.
- B. Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Gas Whistler") applied to the Commission on December 19, 1997, for a CPCN to convert propane customers' equipment to natural gas use and retire the propane facilities in Whistler ("the Whistler Propane Conversion Project").

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

Parties intending to participate in the proceedings are to register no later than March 23, 1998, indicating the nature of their interest and whether they propose to be full participants or interested parties. Those who have already registered need not re-register.

On February 10, 1998 the Commission held a Pre-hearing Conference on the Applications and by Order No. G-16-98, a further Regulatory Timetable summarizing the key dates for a workshop (Wednesday, March 11, 1998), information requests, response deadlines and dates for a public hearing were established.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATIONS

The Squamish to Whistler Gas Pipeline Project and the Whistler Propane Conversion Project applications are available for inspection at the following locations:

Centra Gas British Columbia Inc.- Head Office

Mr. Paul Madsen, Senior Business Planner
Centra Gas British Columbia Inc.
1675 Douglas Street
P.O. Box 3777
Victoria, British Columbia Telephone: (250) 480-4325

Whistler Area

Mr. Wayne Cankovic,
Superintendent of Customer Service for Whistler
Centra Gas Whistler Inc.
8021 Mons Road
Whistler, British Columbia Telephone: (604) 932-4082

Whistler Public Library
4329 Main Street
Whistler, British Columbia
Telephone: (604) 932-6672

Squamish Area

District of Squamish Municipal Office
37955 - 2nd Avenue
P.O. Box 310
Squamish, British Columbia

Copies of the Applications 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

Intervenor and Interested Parties who would like to receive copies of the Applications should immediately request them from Centra Gas BC and inform the Commission, in writing, by as soon as possible, of their intention to become Intervenors or Interested Parties.

Registered Intervenors who actively participate in the review process will receive copies of all correspondence and filed documentation. Interested Parties who register with the Commission will receive a copy of the Applications' Executive Summaries, all Orders issued, as well as the Commission's Decision.

PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE

All parties intending to apply for Participant Assistance and who wish to attend the public hearing process and must do so consistent with the Commission's Participant Assistance 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 BC and Centra Gas Whistler public hearing process, who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed, may contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary or Mr. Robert Brownell, Senior Analyst as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

Telephone: B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385
E-mail: bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Registered Intervenors or Interested Parties requesting additional information from the Applicant should do so as soon as possible, but no later than February 20, 1998. Centra Gas is to respond to such requests as soon as possible, but no later than March 6, 1998.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt