

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



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-8-98

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: L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
and Acting Chair)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner) January 15, 1998
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner)

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 will be constructed at the existing Squamish, B.C. meter station site and two meter regulator stations will 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 has reviewed the applications filed by Centra Gas BC, on the Squamish to Whistler natural gas pipeline, and Centra Gas Whistler, for the conversion of customers from propane to natural gas and finds that an initial Pre-hearing Conference should be held to address both issues prior to the setting of dates for workshops and a public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. A Pre-hearing Conference into the Squamish to Whistler Gas Pipeline Project and the Whistler Propane Conversion Project will commence at 1:30 p.m., February 10, 1998 at the Whistler Fairways Hotel and Resort, in the Lower Village area of Whistler, B.C.
2. A Regulatory Timetable for the Squamish to Whistler Gas Pipeline Project and Whistler Propane Conversion Project, setting down dates for a workshop, information requests, response deadlines and a public hearing, will be set by a future Commission Order following the February 10, 1998 Pre-hearing Conference.
3. Parties intending to participate in the Squamish to Whistler Gas Pipeline Project and Whistler Propane Conversion Project Pre-hearing Conference and subsequent proceedings, are to register with the Commission no later than Friday, February 6, 1998, indicating the nature of their interest and whether they propose to be full participants or interested parties.
4. In order to properly notify those parties who may wish to participate, Centra Gas BC is to publish, in display ad format, as soon as possible, the attached Notice of Pre-hearing Conference in the business sections of the Vancouver Sun, The Province and in local community newspapers in the Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton areas.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 19th day of January, 1998.

BY ORDER

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair and
Acting Chair

Attachment

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



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

NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

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

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 1998
Time: 1:30 p.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 February 6, 1998, indicating the nature of their interest and whether they propose to be full participants or interested parties.

Following the results of the February 10, 1998 Pre-hearing Conference, the Commission will issue a Regulatory Timetable summarizing the key dates for workshops, information requests, response deadlines and dates for a public hearing.

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

Intervenors 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 February 6, 1998, of their intention to become Intervenors or Interested Parties, and/or to attend the Pre-hearing Conference.

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 Pre-hearing Conference, 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 Pre-hearing Conference, 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

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt