



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 Pioneer General Service Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner) March 9, 2000
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On February 29, 2000, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase rates to the Pioneer General Service and Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") customers effective April 1, 2000, pursuant to the Special Direction and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act; and
- B. Under the Special Direction, the current Pioneer rates are set at the lower of a 10 percent discount to the average price of fuel oil or 67 percent of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") residential rate. At current B.C. Hydro rates, the maximum rate that could be charged to Pioneer customers is \$10.74 per gigajoule; and
- C. As a result of higher competitive fuel oil prices in its service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer General Service SGS-2 to LGS-3 customers, are proposed to increase between 6.95 to 7.10 percent effective April 1, 2000. Rates for the ACR-1 customers are proposed to increase between 7.32 to 9.15 percent effective April 1, 2000; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that an increase in rates to the Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 customers should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

1. An increase in rates to Pioneer General Service SGS-2 to LGS-3 customers of between 6.95 to 7.10 percent, is approved, effective April 1, 2000.
2. An increase in rates to the ACR-1 customers of between 7.32 to 9.15 percent, is approved, effective April 1, 2000.
3. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the increased rates with an appropriate bill message.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 20th day of March 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair