



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 Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
B. Clemenhagen, Commissioner) April 15, 1999
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
F.C. Leighton, Commissioner)
D. Rayner, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On April 7, 1999, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase customer rates to all Pioneer customers effective May 1, 1999, pursuant to the Special Direction and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act; and
- B. As a result of higher competitive fuel oil prices in the service area, effective April 1999, the heating oil-based natural gas rates to Centra Gas customers will increase between 2.03 and 2.30 percent for Pioneer General Service customers and between 7.90 and 9.41 percent for Apartment Customer Rates ("ACR-1") effective May 1, 1999; and
- C. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' April 7, 1999 application and proposed rate changes and finds that an increase in Pioneer customer rates should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission approves the following for Centra Gas:

- 1. An increase in rates, effective May 1, 1999, for Pioneer General Service customers between 2.03 and 2.30 percent and for ACR-1 customers between 7.90 percent and 9.41 percent.

2. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the increased rates with the following notice:

“Until 2002, your natural gas rate is set by a mechanism which follows changes in the local market price of fuel oil, less a 10 percent discount. The B.C. Utilities Commission has approved the following rate change: Effective May 1, 1999 you will pay ____ percent more for natural gas.”

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 22nd day of April 1999.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair