



IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Application by Silver Star Mountain Resorts Utilities Ltd.
for Approval of Rates for Natural Gas Service

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner) March 30, 2000
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

WHEREAS:

- A. On January 14, 2000, Silver Star Mountain Resorts Utilities Ltd. ("SSMRUL") applied for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to operate a natural gas distribution system at the resort community of Silver Star (the "Resort") in British Columbia, and requested approval of rates for gas service (the "Application"); and
- B. The Application states that two public meetings were held in October 1999 regarding SSMRUL's plans to install and operate a natural gas distribution system in the Resort, and that no major concerns were raised; and
- C. In Section 5.4 of the Application, SSMRUL states it will endeavour to minimize service line costs by obtaining competitive contractor bids and arranging the installation of several services at one time; and
- D. On January 26, 2000, Commission staff requested comments on the Application from a member of the Silver Star Standing Committee, and has received comments that are generally supportive of the Application, providing rates will be reviewed in detail before the rates are made permanent; and
- E. On January 31, 2000, SSMRUL filed revised rates which flow-through an increase in the BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") commodity charge effective January 1, 2000; and
- F. Commission Order No. G-19-00, dated February 17, 2000, approved an agreement with BC Gas for natural gas service to SSMRUL at the Resort as a Rate Schedule 3 Tariff Supplement; and
- G. Commission Order No. C-4-00, dated March 30, 2000, approved a CPCN for SSMRUL to provide natural gas distribution service at the Resort; and
- H. The Commission has reviewed the Application and the supporting documentation received to date and has determined that approval of rates that are interim is necessary and in the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to Sections 58, 60 and 61 of the Utilities Commission Act, the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission approves for SSMRUL the following charges as interim rates for the period October 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999, subject to refund with interest calculated at the average prime rate of SSMRUL's bank.

	<u>Basic Charge</u>	<u>Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Delivery Charge</u>
Residential	\$ 15/month	\$ 5.166/GJ	\$ 4.80/GJ
Small Commercial (0 to 2000 GJ/year)	\$ 25/month	\$ 5.166/GJ	\$ 5.20/GJ
Large Commercial (over 2000 GJ/month)	\$ 100/month	\$ 5.166/GJ	\$ 5.20/GJ

2. The Commission approves for SSMRUL the following charges as interim rates for the period beginning January 1, 2000, subject to refund with interest calculated at the average prime rate of SSMRUL's bank.

	<u>Basic Charge</u>	<u>Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Delivery Charge</u>
Residential	\$ 15/month	\$ 5.626/GJ	\$ 4.80/GJ
Small Commercial (0 to 2000 GJ/year)	\$ 25/month	\$ 5.626/GJ	\$ 5.20/GJ
Large Commercial (over 2000 GJ/month)	\$ 100/month	\$ 5.626/GJ	\$ 5.20/GJ

3. The Commission approves for SSMRUL, as interim rates, an Application Fee of \$50 and a Connection Charge that is equal to the estimated direct construction cost for the customer's service line and meter set, but denies the request for approval of fixed minimum charges for the service line and meter set.
4. SSMRUL is to inform all customers of the interim rates by way of a customer notice.
5. The Commission will accept, subject to filing by May 1, 2000, Gas Tariff Rate Schedules in accordance with this Order.
6. SSMRUL is to file by July 31, 2000, a detailed application for permanent rates, which sets out and substantiates costs and revenues for the period ending May 31, 2000, and for the next fiscal year.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 30th day of March 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair