



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

and

An Application by Pacific Northern Gas (N.E.) Ltd.  
for Approval of 2000 Rate Increases

**BEFORE:** P. Ostergaard, Chair )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair )  
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner ) December 16, 1999  
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner )  
K.L. Hall, Commissioner )  
F.C. Leighton, Commissioner )

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On December 1, 1999, Pacific Northern Gas (N.E.) Ltd. ["PNG (N.E.)"], filed a 2000 Revenue Requirements Application ("the Application"), pursuant to Sections 91 and 58 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act") for approval to increase rates on an interim and final basis effective January 1, 2000; and
- B. The Application proposed to increase rates to all customers as a result of revenue deficiencies and higher costs of purchasing the natural gas commodity for the 1999/2000 gas contract year; and
- C. The Application also requested approval of gas cost rate riders of \$0.10/GJ which will recover approximately one-third of the debit balance (amount to be repaid) that has accumulated in the gas cost variance account at the end of 1999 effective January 1, 2000; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed the evidence and finds that an interim rate increase is required.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission approves an interim rate increase effective January 1, 2000, subject to refund with interest, to recover from Fort St. John/Dawson Creek customers a projected revenue deficiency of \$663,000.

2. The Commission approves an interim rate increase effective January 1, 2000, subject to refund with interest, to recover from Tumbler Ridge customers a projected revenue deficiency of \$33,700.
3. The Commission approves an interim rate increase effective January 1, 2000, subject to refund with interest, to recover gas supply charges and gas cost rate riders as applied for.
4. The Commission will issue a future Order outlining a Regulatory Agenda and Timetable regarding the Application.
5. PNG is to inform all affected customers of the interim rate increases by way of a customer notice, to be submitted to the Commission in draft form prior to its release.
6. The Commission will accept, subject to timely filing, amended Gas Tariff Rate Schedules in accordance with this Order.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 1999.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Peter Ostergaard  
Chair