



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-13-00

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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)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner) February 3, 2000
)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On January 26, 2000, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase rates to all Pioneer General Service customers effective March 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 customers are proposed to increase between 2.97 and 4.03 percent effective March 1, 2000. The requested increase of 2.97 percent to Small General Service ("SGS-1") customers limits the oil-based natural gas rate increase to the maximum rate of \$10.74 per gigajoule; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that an increase in rates to Pioneer General Service customers should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

- 1. An increase in rates to Pioneer General Service customers of between 2.97 and 4.03 percent is approved, effective March 1, 2000.
- 2. 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 16th day of February 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair