



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

and

An Application by Squamish Gas Co. Ltd.
for Approval to Increase Natural Gas General Service Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner) February 3, 2000

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On January 31, 2000, Squamish Gas Co. Ltd. ("Squamish Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase rates to all natural gas General Service customers, effective March 1, 2000, consistent with the Commission's approval of rate increases to Pioneer General Service schedules for Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") under Order No. G-13-00; and
- B. As a condition of the Special Direction and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act, Centra Gas monitors the prices for heating oil available to customers. Under the Special Direction, the current Centra Gas 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, the oil-based natural gas rates to Centra Gas Pioneer General Service customers were approved to increase between 2.97 and 4.03 percent effective March 1, 2000 under Order No. G-13-00. The approved increase of 2.97 percent to the Centra Gas 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. Squamish Gas adopts the same rate changes for its oil-based natural gas rates as those approved for Centra Gas; and
- E. The Commission has reviewed the Squamish Gas application and finds that approval is required.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission approves for Squamish Gas its January 31, 2000 application to increase rates to all natural gas General Service customers of between 2.97 and 4.03 percent, effective March 1, 2000.
2. Squamish Gas is to inform all customers of the March 1, 2000 rate increase by way of a customer notice included in the next billing.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 17th day of February 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair