



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-57-00

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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 Decrease Pioneer Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair) June 1, 2000
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On May 24, 2000, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to decrease rates to the Pioneer General Service and Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") customers, effective July 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 General Service 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 General Service customers is \$10.74 per gigajoule. The Pioneer ACR-1 rates are set at a 10 percent discount to the price of fuel oil; and
- C. As a result of lower competitive fuel oil prices in its service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer General Service LGS-1, LGS-2 and LGS-3 customers, are proposed to decrease between 2.88 to 3.01 percent, effective July 1, 2000. Rates for the ACR-1 customers are proposed to decrease between 4.58 to 5.22 percent, effective July 1, 2000; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that a decrease in rates to the Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 customers should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

- 1. A decrease in rates to the Pioneer General Service LGS-1, LGS-2 and LGS-3 customers of between 2.88 to 3.01 percent, is approved, effective July 1, 2000.
- 2. A decrease in rates to the ACR-1 customers of between 4.58 to 5.22 percent, is approved, effective July 1, 2000.
- 3. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the decrease in rates with an appropriate bill message.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 2nd day of June 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair