



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

and

Applications by Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. and  
Pacific Northern Gas (N.E.) Ltd. –  
Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, and Tumbler Ridge Divisions

for Approval of 2000 Rate Increases

**BEFORE:** P. Ostergaard, Chair )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair ) January 6, 2000  
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner )

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On December 1, 1999, Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. (“PNG”) and Pacific Northern Gas (N.E.) Ltd. – Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Divisions [“PNG (N.E.)”] filed for approval 2000 Revenue Requirements Applications (“the Applications”) to increase their rates on an interim and final basis, effective January 1, 2000, pursuant to Sections 91 and 58 of the Utilities Commission Act; and
- B. The Commission reviewed the Applications, was satisfied that approvals of interim rate increases were necessary effective January 1, 2000, and issued Orders No. G-137-99, and G-139-99; and
- C. PNG noted that copies of the Applications were delivered to parties that participated in the 1999 Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) discussions and requested an ADR process for these Applications; and
- D. The Commission requires that a regulatory process to deal with the Applications be established.

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

1. The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference on the Applications on Friday, January 21, 2000 commencing at 9:00 a.m. (10:00 a.m. in Dawson Creek) with video conferencing facilities in Vancouver, Terrace and Dawson Creek. The Pre-hearing Conference will address procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- scheduling,
  - completeness of the Application,
  - identification of principal issues, including rate design proposals, and the CIS Business Case,
  - process (workshops, information requests, settlement negotiations or public hearings),
  - location(s) of the proceedings, and
  - other matters that will enable the proceeding to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.
2. In order to adequately notify its customers, PNG will publish, in display-ad format, the Notice of Pre-hearing Conference, attached as Appendix A to this Order, in newspapers in its service areas by Sunday, January 16, 2000.
  3. PNG is to provide a copy of this Order, by facsimile if possible, to all Intervenors and Interested Parties registered in the PNG and PNG (N.E.) 1999 Revenue Requirements Applications, as well as all Large Industrial Customers, as soon as possible.
  4. Intervenors and Interested Parties should inform the Commission, in writing, by Friday, January 21, 2000, of their intention to intervene and/or to attend the Pre-Hearing Conference.
  5. Participants travelling to Vancouver, Terrace or to Dawson Creek for the regulatory proceedings may be eligible for participant funding under the Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines as established by the Commission in Order No. G-97-98. As set out in the Guidelines, a budget will be required to be submitted to the Commission by January 28, 2000. Copies of the Order and Guidelines are available upon request or from the Commission's website at [www.bcuc.com/paca.html](http://www.bcuc.com/paca.html).

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 2000.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Lorna R. Barr  
Deputy Chair

Attachment



## **NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE**

**PACIFIC NORTHERN GAS LTD.  
PACIFIC NORTHERN GAS (N.E.) LTD. –  
FORT ST. JOHN/DAWSON CREEK AND TUMBLER RIDGE DIVISIONS  
Applications for Approval of 2000 Revenue Requirements**

**Date:** Friday, January 21, 2000  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. (10:00 a.m. in Dawson Creek)  
**Locations:** Department of Fisheries & Oceans Offices  
555 West Hastings Street – Room 455  
Vancouver, B.C.

with video-conferencing links to :

North Coast Regional Correspondence School  
3211 Kenney Street  
Terrace, B.C. V8G 3E9

Community Skills Centre  
1105 103<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 2G8

### **THE APPLICATIONS**

On December 1, 1999, Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. ("PNG") and Pacific Northern Gas (N.E.) Ltd. ["PNG (N.E.)"] applied to the B.C. Utilities Commission ("the Commission") for approval to increase rates on an interim and final basis, effective January 1, 2000.

PNG has requested that the Applications be dealt with through the Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution Process.

### **THE REGULATORY PROCESS**

The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference in Vancouver, Terrace and Dawson Creek via video-conferencing facilities, on Friday, January 21, 2000 to address and decide procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- scheduling,
- completeness of the Applications,
- identification of principal issues, including rate design proposals, and the CIS Business Case,
- process (workshops, information requests, settlement negotiations or public hearing),
- location(s) of the proceedings; and
- other matters that will enable the proceeding to efficiently cover all aspects of the Applications.

## **PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATIONS**

### **Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. and Pacific Northern Gas (N.E.) Ltd.**

Head Office: Suite 1400, 1185 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G6

District Offices: Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Houston, Smithers, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge and Fort St. John.

### **British Columbia Utilities Commission**

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3.

## **INTERVENTIONS**

Persons who expect to actively participate in the proceeding should register as Intervenors with the Commission, in writing, by Friday, January 21, 2000. Intervenors will receive copies of the Application, all correspondence and filed documentation.

Persons not expecting to actively participate should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by Friday, January 21, 2000. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Application's Executive Summary and all Orders issued.

## **PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE**

All Registered Intervenors intending to apply for Participant Assistance must submit a budget estimate by Friday, January 28, 2000 consistent with the Commission's Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines as outlined in Order No. G-97-98. Copies of the Order and Guidelines are available upon request or from the Commission's website at [www.bcuc.com/paca.html](http://www.bcuc.com/paca.html).

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Barry McKinlay, Manager, Rates and Finance as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700  
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

E-Mail: [Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com](mailto:Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com)  
Telephone: (B.C. Toll Free) 1-800-663-1385

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Robert J. Pellatt