



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 Customer Rates

**BEFORE:** P. Ostergaard, Chair )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair ) October 5, 2000  
K.L. Hall, Commissioner )

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On September 19, 2000, Squamish Gas Co. Ltd. ("Squamish Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase its natural gas Large General Service customer rates and Apartment Customer Rates ("ACR-1"), effective October 1, 2000, to be consistent with the rates approved by Commission Order No. G-84-00 for the Pioneer Large General Service and ACR-1 customers of Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas"); 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 General Service and ACR-1 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 electricity rate. At current B.C. Hydro rates, the maximum rate that could be charged to Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 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 increased between 2.03 to 2.16 percent for LGS-1 to LGS-3 customers, effective October 1, 2000. Rates for the ACR-1 customers were decreased between 2.33 to 2.50 percent, effective October 1, 2000; and
- D. Squamish Gas adopts the same rate changes for its oil-based natural gas rates as those approved for Centra Gas. Squamish Gas did not file the August 1, 2000 and September 1, 2000 increases to ACR-1 rates as there are no Squamish Gas customers served under the ACR-1 rate schedules. The current application will make the Squamish Gas rates the same as those for Centra Gas; and

E. The Commission has reviewed the Squamish Gas application and finds that approval is required.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission orders the following for Squamish Gas:

1. An increase in rates to General Service customers of between 2.03 to 2.16 percent for the LGS-1 to LGS-13 customers is approved, effective October 1, 2000.
2. An increase to the ACR-1 rate schedule of between 4.80 to 5.17 percent is approved, effective October 1, 2000.
3. Squamish Gas is to inform all customers of the October 1, 2000 rate changes by way of a customer notice included in the next billing.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this      10<sup>th</sup>      day of October 2000.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Peter Ostergaard  
Chair