



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

and

An Application by Centra Gas Whistler Inc.  
for Approval of its 2000 Revenue Requirements

**BEFORE:** P. Ostergaard, Chair )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair ) January 13, 2000  
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner )

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On December 21, 1999, Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Whistler") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission") for approval of its 2000 Revenue Requirements ("the Application") pursuant to Section 60 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"); and
- B. The Application forecasts a 2000 revenue deficiency due to the increase in the cost of propane and other cost increases partly offset by the amortization of several deferral account credits; and
- C. The Application proposed an interim increase in the commodity charge per gigajoule of 17.22 percent, from \$8.725 to \$10.227, effective January 1, 2000, and following an Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") process, the setting of permanent rates; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed the Application and finds that an interim rate increase and the scheduling of a Pre-hearing Conference is required.

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

- 1. The Commission approves for Centra Whistler an interim rate increase of \$1.502 per gigajoule effective January 1, 2000, subject to refund with interest, to recover a projected revenue deficiency of \$1,009,879.
- 2. The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference on the Centra Whistler Application on January 27, 2000, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Coast Whistler Hotel, Regency Room, 4005 Whistler Way (Lower Village), Whistler, B.C.

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 the principal issues,
  - process (information requests, settlement negotiations or public hearings),
  - location(s) of the proceedings, and
  - other matters that will enable the proceedings to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.
3. Centra Whistler will publish, in display-ad format, the attached Notice of Pre-hearing Conference (attached as Appendix A), in local community newspapers in Whistler, B.C. by January 21, 2000.
  4. Following results of the Pre-hearing Conference, the Commission will issue an Order and a Regulatory Timetable to Registered Intervenors outlining further steps to be followed in the review of the Application.
  5. Participants to 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2000.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Peter Ostergaard  
Chair

Attachment



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

### **CENTRA GAS WHISTLER INC. Application for Approval of 2000 Revenue Requirements**

**Date:** Thursday, January 27, 2000  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** The Coast Whistler Hotel  
Regency Room  
4005 Whistler Way (Lower Village)  
Whistler, B.C.

#### **THE APPLICATION**

On December 21, 1999, Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Whistler") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission") to increase rates on an interim and permanent basis by \$1.502/GJ or 17.22% effective January 1, 2000 ("the Application").

Centra Whistler has requested that the Application be dealt with through the Commission's Negotiated Settlement Process.

#### **THE REGULATORY PROCESS**

The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference in Whistler on Thursday, January 27, 2000 to discuss procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- scheduling,
- completeness of the Application,
- identification of principal issues,
- process (information requests, settlement negotiations or public hearing),
- location(s) of the proceedings; and
- other matters that will enable the proceedings to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.

#### **PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION**

The Application is available for inspection at the following locations of Centra Whistler:

**Head Office:** 1675 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3V3

**District Offices:** 8021 Mons Road, Whistler, B.C.

An Executive Summary of the Application is available to Interested Parties upon request from Centra Whistler at no charge.

Copies of the Application and supporting material are also available for inspection at the office of the 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 28, 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 28, 2000. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Application's Executive Summary and all Orders issued.

## **PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE**

All parties intending to apply for Participant Assistance must submit a budget estimate by January 28, 2000 consistent with the Commission's Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines as outlined in Order No. G-97-98. Copies of these 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