



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 Increase Pioneer 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 25, 2000, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase rates to its Pioneer Large General Service and Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") customers, effective November 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 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 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 in its service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer Large General Service LGS-1, LGS-2 and LGS-3 customers, are proposed to increase between 9.03 and 9.04 percent, effective November 1, 2000. As a result of higher competitive heating oil rates for the retail market pricing tariff, rates for the ACR-1 customers are proposed to increase between 6.83 to 12.93 percent, effective November 1, 2000; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that increases to the Pioneer Large General Service and ACR-1 rates should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

1. An increase in rates to Pioneer Large General Service LGS-1, LGS-2 and LGS-3 customers of between 9.03 and 9.04 percent, is approved, effective November 1, 2000.
2. An increase in rates to ACR-1 customers of between 6.83 to 12.93 percent, is approved, effective November 1, 2000.
3. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the changes in natural gas rates with an appropriate bill message.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this *sixth* day of October 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair