



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

and

An Application by BC Gas Utility Ltd.
for Approval of a Revision to Gas Cost Reconciliation Account Rate Riders

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair) February 17, 2000
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 23, 1999 the Commission, by Order No. G-140-99, approved for BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") Gas Cost Reconciliation Account ("GCRA") riders for Rate Schedules 7, 23, 25 and 27 as set out in BC Gas' December 21, 1999 application, effective January 1, 2000; and
- B. By letter dated January 24, 2000, BC Gas requested a revision to the tariff that would apply to customers who were served under transportation service prior to November 1, 1999 and who switched, between November 1 and December 31, 1999, to firm sales service, and who returned to transportation service prior to February 29, 2000. Under the revision, such customers would not continue to pay a GCRA rider after returning to transportation service; and
- C. Several parties filed comments regarding BC Gas' application. Avista Energy Canada, Inc. and Premstar Pacific supported the revision and British Columbia Health Services and Conquest Energy Inc. opposed the revision; and
- D. The British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Centre ("PIAC") considered it unlikely that the customers who would be affected by the proposed revision had a significant impact on the GCRA, and asked for further information to quantify the impact. BC Gas responded by stating that 131 customers switched from transportation to sales service in November and December 1999, and that gas purchase costs were higher than forecast in November and lower than forecast in December; and
- E. The Commission has reviewed the application and the comments, and finds that approval of the proposed revision should be denied because customers that would be affected by the proposed revision are unlikely to be significantly and unreasonably harmed by the present terms of the tariff.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER **G-20-00**

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NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission denies the BC Gas January 24, 2000 application to revise the Gas Cost Reconciliation Account riders that were approved by Order No. G-140-99.
2. BC Gas is directed, in future when it advises customers of the industrial gas sales rates that will apply for the next gas year, to caution customers that positive or negative GCRA riders may also apply to some transportation and interruptible sales customers as well as to firm sales customers.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 29th day of February 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair