



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 Decrease Natural Gas Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner) June 29, 2000
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On June 20, 2000, Squamish Gas Co. Ltd. ("Squamish Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to decrease its natural gas General Service customer rates and Apartment Customer Rates ("ACR-1"), effective July 1, 2000, consistent with the Commission's approval of rate decreases to Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 rate schedules for Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") under Order No. G-57-00; 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 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 customers is \$10.74 per gigajoule. The Pioneer ACR-1 rates are set at a 10 percent discount to the price of fuel oil; and
- C. As a result of lower competitive fuel oil prices, the oil-based natural gas rates to Centra Gas Pioneer General Service customers were decreased between 2.88 to 3.01 percent for LGS-1 to LGS-13 customers, effective July 1, 2000. Rates for the ACR-1 customers were decreased between 4.58 to 5.22 percent, effective July 1, 2000, under Order No. G-57-00; and
- D. Squamish Gas adopts the same rate changes for its oil-based natural gas rates as those approved 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. A decrease in rates to General Service customers of between 2.88 to 3.01 percent for LGS-1 to LGS-13 customers is approved, effective July 1, 2000.
2. A decrease in rates to the ACR-1 customers of between 2.34 to 2.52 percent is approved, effective July 1, 2000.
3. Squamish Gas is to inform all customers of the July 1, 2000 rate decreases by way of a customer notice included in the next billing.

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

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair