



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

and

An Application by Stargas Utilities Ltd.
for Approval of Permanent Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair) December 14, 2000
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner)
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. The Commission, by Order No. C-4-00 approved a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Stargas Utilities Ltd. ("Stargas") to operate a natural gas distribution system at the resort community of Silver Star. The Commission, by Order No. G-34-00, approved interim rates for gas service to Stargas customers and required the utility to file a detailed application for permanent rates; and
- B. The Commission, by Order No. G-66-00, approved, on an interim basis subject to refund with interest, the Stargas Standard Fees and Charges Schedule and the Administrative Charges Schedule, effective October 1, 1999; and
- C. Commission Order No. G-66-00 also approved on an interim basis, subject to refund with interest, the June 28, 2000 Stargas application for increased gas cost recovery charges, effective July 1, 2000; and
- D. Stating that prevailing market conditions constrain Stargas' ability from fully recovering its costs, on November 27, 2000 Stargas filed an Application to approve its interim rates as permanent and to create and maintain an interest-bearing deferral account to accumulate the amortization related to its capital assets; and
- E. The Commission has reviewed the Application and finds that approval is in the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to Sections 59, 60 and 61 of the Utilities Commission Act, the Commission orders as follows:

1. The interim Standard Fees and Charges Schedule and the Administrative Charges Schedule are approved as permanent.
2. The interim rates for service are approved at the existing level.
3. The Commission approves the creation and maintenance of an interest-bearing deferral account to accumulate the amortization related to the Stargas capital assets.
4. Within 60 days of the date of this Order, on complaint by an interested party, the Commission may direct an inquiry into the new schedule of rates.
5. Stargas is to file amended tariff schedules in accordance with the terms of the Order.
6. Stargas is to inform all customers of this Order by way of a customer notice.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 15th day of December 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair