



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-119-00

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

and

An Application by Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.
for New Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner) December 19, 2000
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On September 28, 2000, Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. ("PNG") filed for approval an application to increase its rates on an interim and final basis, effective October 1, 2000 and January 1, 2001 ("the Application"), pursuant to Sections 91 and 58 of the Utilities Commission Act; and
- B. The Application proposed to increase rates to all customers as a result of liquidity issues caused by the July 1, 2000 Methanex plant shutdown, higher costs of purchasing the natural gas commodity, and increased revenue requirements for the year ending December 31, 2001; and
- C. Commission Order No. G-94-00 approved an interim increase as at October 1, 2000 only; and
- D. Commission Order No. G-113-00 established a Regulatory Agenda for an oral public hearing into the Application in Terrace, B.C. beginning on Monday, March 5, 2001.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

- 1. PNG will publish, as soon as possible, in display-ad format, the Notice of Hearing, attached as Appendix A, in such appropriate local news publications as may properly provide adequate notice to the public in its service area.
- 2. The Application and supporting material will be made available for inspection at the Head Office of PNG at Suite 1400, 1185 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6E 4G6, at its District Office in Terrace, B.C., and at the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2N3, and at public libraries in Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kitimat, Houston, Smithers, Burns Lake, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James.
- 3. PNG is to distribute copies of the Application and any supplemental information to Intervenors.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 20th day of December 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair

Attachment

Order/PNG-2001RR Hrg Ntce



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. Application for New Rates

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: Monday, March 5, 2001
Location: Best Western Terrace Inn
4553 Greig Avenue
Terrace, B.C. V8G 1M7

THE APPLICATION

On September 28, 2000, Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. ("PNG", "the Applicant") applied to increase its rates on an interim and final basis, effective October 1, 2000 and January 1, 2001 ("the Application"), pursuant to Sections 91 and 58 of the Utilities Commission Act. On December 18, 2000, PNG submitted revisions to its Application. The Commission, by Order No. G-94-00, authorized an interim increase to be applied to all customers, effective October 1, 2000 only, subject to refund with interest after a public hearing.

THE PUBLIC HEARING

The Commission has referred the Application for a public hearing to commence at 9:00 a.m. local time, Monday, March 5, 2001, at the Best Western Terrace Inn, 4553 Greig Avenue, Terrace, B.C.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The Application and supporting material are available for inspection at the Head Office of PNG at Suite 1400, 1185 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C., at its District Office in Terrace, B.C., at the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., and at public libraries in Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kitimat, Houston, Smithers, Burns Lake, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC HEARING

If you wish to participate in the public hearing, you are to advise the Commission Secretary, in writing, by Friday, January 5, 2001, of your intention to become an Intervenor or Interested Party. If you intend to actively participate in the proceedings you should register as an Intervenor and you will receive copies of all procedural Orders, correspondence and filed documentation. If you do not intend to actively participate you should register with the Commission as an Interested Party and you will receive a copy of the Commission's Decision.

COMMENTS

If you wish to comment on the Application without becoming an Intervenor, you may write to the Commission Secretary stating your views and any relevant information. All letters of comment will be provided to the Applicant and will become part of the public record in the proceeding.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Intervenors requesting additional information from PNG should submit their requests to PNG, with copies to the Commission Secretary and other Intervenors, no later than Wednesday, January 10, 2001. PNG must respond to these information requests no later than Monday, January 22, 2001.

INTERVENOR EVIDENCE

Intervenors must file copies of their evidence concerning the Application with the Commission Secretary, PNG, and the other Intervenors, no later than Monday, January 29, 2001. All parties requesting additional information on the filed Intervenor evidence should submit their requests to the Intervenor no later than Monday, February 5, 2001. Intervenors must respond to these information requests no later than Monday, February 12, 2001.

REBUTTAL EVIDENCE

Parties must file rebuttal evidence, if any, by Monday, February 19, 2001.

CLARIFICATION

If you have any questions regarding this process, contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Barry McKinlay, Manager, Rates and Finance as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385

Facsimile: (604) 660-1102
E-mail: commission.secretary@bcuc.com

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt
Commission Secretary