



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 Decrease Pioneer Customer Rates

BEFORE:

P. Ostergaard, Chair)
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner)
R.D. Deane, Commissioner)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

November 8, 2001

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On October 25, 2001, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to decrease rates to its Pioneer Large General Service ("LGS") and Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") customers, effective December 1, 2001, 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 lower competitive fuel oil prices in its service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer LGS customers are proposed to decrease between 3.00 to 3.07 percent, effective December 1, 2001. As a result of a decrease in the competitive heating oil rates for the retail market pricing tariff, rates for the ACR-1 customers are proposed to decrease between 8.25 to 8.87 percent in the Capital Regional District and by 7.97 to 8.55 percent in the Other Communities, effective December 1, 2001; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that the decreases to the Pioneer LGS and ACR-1 rates should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

1. A decrease in rates to Pioneer LGS customers of between 3.00 and 3.07 percent, is approved, effective December 1, 2001.
2. A decrease in rates to ACR-1 customers of between 8.25 to 8.87 percent for customers in the Capital Regional District and between 7.97 to 8.55 percent in Other Communities is approved, effective December 1, 2001.
3. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the decreases in natural gas rates with an appropriate bill message.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 13th day of November 2001.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair