



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

and

BC Gas Utility Ltd.  
2001 Rate Design Application

**BEFORE:** P. Ostergaard, Chair )  
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner )  
R.D. Deane, Commissioner ) July 24, 2001  
K.L. Hall, Commissioner )  
E.J. Rowbotham, Commissioner )

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On February 5, 2001, BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") filed with the Commission an application for approval to implement certain rate design changes ("the Application") in its service areas; and
- B. The Commission, by way of Order No. G-21-01, established a Workshop and Pre-hearing Conference on February 28, 2001, for participants to discuss the issues in the Application and methods of proceeding with a Commission review; and
- C. At the Workshop and Pre-hearing Conference, participants requested that Commission staff hire an independent rate design consultant to validate the BC Gas Cost of Service study, and to make the consultant's report available to participants; and
- D. The Commission considered the request of the participants at the Pre-hearing Conference and, by Order No. G-32-01, approved the hiring of an independent rate design consultant to conduct a review of the BC Gas Cost of Service study under the direction of Commission staff; and
- E. By Order No. G-32-01, the Commission established a process for information requests, responses and submissions to the Commission on the further review of the Application, which would follow circulation of the consultant's report; and
- F. By letter dated June 1, 2001, Commission staff circulated the consultant's report to Registered Intervenor and other participants in the Workshop and Pre-hearing Conference; and

- G. Following circulation of information requests and responses, Intervenors made submissions to the Commission on the merits of resolving the rate design issues through an oral public hearing or a negotiated settlement process; and
- H. The Commission has reviewed the submissions by BC Gas, Intervenors and other participants in the Workshop and Pre-hearing Conference and finds that proceeding through a negotiated settlement process is in the public interest.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission orders as follows:

1. Intervenors may make any additional information requests to BC Gas by Friday, August 10, 2001.
2. BC Gas is to provide responses to information requests by Friday, August 31, 2001.
3. A Workshop will be held in the Commission Hearing Room, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.
4. The Negotiated Settlement Process will begin in the Commission Hearing Room on Monday, September 17, 2001.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 2001.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Peter Ostergaard  
Chair