



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 Change Pioneer Customer Rates

**BEFORE:** P. Ostergaard, Chair )  
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner )  
K.L. Hall, Commissioner ) December 19, 2001  
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner )

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On November 30, 2001, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to change the pricing formula for setting rates in the Pioneer rate classes of Small General Service ("SGS"), Large General Service ("LGS") and Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") as directed in the Special Direction, effective January 1, 2002. Centra Gas also applied to increase rates for Pioneer SGS and LGS customers and decrease rates for ACR-1 customers effective January 1, 2002, pursuant to the Special Direction and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act; and
- B. Under the Special Direction, effective January 1, 2002, the Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 rates are set at the lower of the average price of fuel oil with a zero percent discount or the New Customer rate; and
- C. As a result of the change in the pricing formula for setting rates, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer SGS customers are proposed to increase between 9.12 to 20.67 percent and the rates to LGS customers are proposed to increase between 7.40 to 8.30 percent, effective January 1, 2002. As a result of a decrease in the competitive heating oil rates for the retail market pricing tariff, rates for the ACR-1 customers consuming a minimum annual volume of 6,000 GJs are proposed to decrease 3.44 percent in the Capital Regional District and by 7.30 percent in the Other Communities, effective January 1, 2002; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that changes to the rate pricing formula, increases to Pioneer SGS and LGS customer rates, and decreases to ACR-1 rates should be approved.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

1. As directed by the Special Direction, effective January 1, 2002, the Pioneer rates for SGS, LGS and ACR-1 customers are to be set at the lower of a competitive fuel oil price with a zero percent discount or the New Customer rate as determined under Section 2.7 of the Special Direction.
2. An increase in rates to Pioneer SGS customers of between 9.12 and 20.67 percent is approved, effective January 1, 2002.
3. An increase in rates to Pioneer LGS customers of between 7.40 and 8.30 percent is approved, effective January 1, 2002.
4. A decrease in rates to ACR-1 customers consuming a minimum annual volume of 6,000 GJs of 3.44 percent in the Capital Regional District and 7.30 percent in the Other Communities is approved, effective January 1, 2002.
5. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the changes in the rate pricing formula and natural gas rates with an appropriate bill message.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2001.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Peter Ostergaard  
Chair