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BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-103-01

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

and

BC Gas Utility Ltd.
2002 Revenue Requirements Application

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
R.D. Deane, Commissioner)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner) September 26, 2001
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)
E.J. Rowbotham, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On August 24, 2001, BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission") for approval to increase rates for customers in the Lower Mainland, Inland and Columbia service areas, effective January 1, 2002, pursuant to Sections 58 and 61 of the Utilities Commission Act; and
- B. The Application seeks to recover increased revenue requirements associated with delivering gas. An increase of about 7 percent would apply to rates for transportation service and to the distribution portion (excluding the commodity cost of gas) of rates for customers to whom BC Gas supplies the natural gas commodity. Expressed on a burnertip basis (including the current commodity cost of gas) the increase being sought is about 2 percent; and
- C. The Application does not deal with the gas commodity cost component of BC Gas' rates, which may be adjusted quarterly by the Commission based on BC Gas' forecasts of its 12-month gas commodity costs and revenues; and
- D. The Commission, by Order No. G-98-01, held a Workshop and Pre-hearing Conference on September 25, 2001 to identify the issues and interests in a longer-term regulatory framework for BC Gas and to discuss procedural matters related to the Application; and

E. The participants at the Workshop and Pre-hearing conference agreed to a review of the Application by way of a negotiated settlement process to establish costs and revenues to form the basis of longer-term incentive rates; and

F. The Commission requires that a timetable be established for review of the Application.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission will hold a Negotiated Settlement Process for BC Gas' 2002 Revenue Requirements Application on Monday, November 5, 2001, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission's Hearing Room, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.
2. Intervenors and interested parties already registered with the Commission need not re-register for the Negotiated Settlement Process. Information requests on BC Gas' Application should be made by Friday, October 12, 2001, with copies sent to other registered Intervenors. The Commission will issue a final list of registered Intervenors on October 12, 2001.
3. BC Gas will respond to information requests by Friday, October 26, 2001.
4. The Commission has determined that the Negotiated Settlement Process qualifies as a proceeding for participant assistance. Intervenors intending to apply for participant assistance must submit a budget estimate by Friday, October 12, 2001, consistent with the Commission's Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines. Copies are available upon request or can be downloaded from the Commission's web site at <http://www.bcuc.com/bcuc/paca.html>.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 28th day of September 2001.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair