



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 Increase Pioneer Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner) May 9, 2002
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On April 22, 2002, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase rates to its Pioneer Small General Service ("SGS"), Large General Service ("LGS"), and Apartment Customer Rates ("ACR-1") customers, effective June 1, 2002, pursuant to the Special Direction (Order in Council 1510, 1995), and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act; and
- B. Under the Special Direction, effective in 2002, the current Pioneer customer rates are set at the lower of either the average competitive price of fuel oil with a zero percent discount or the applicable New Customer rate; and
- C. As a result of the monthly survey of competitive fuel oil prices in the service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer customers are proposed to increase effective June 1, 2002; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that the increases to the Pioneer customer rates should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission approves the following for Centra Gas:

- 1. An increase to Pioneer customer rates effective June 1, 2002 as follows:

	<u>Current Rate</u> (\$/GJ)	<u>New Rate</u> (\$/GJ)	<u>Percent Change</u> Increase
SGS-1	12.37	12.96	4.77%
SGS-2	11.01	11.63	5.63%
LGS-1	8.54	9.02	5.62%
LGS-2	8.04	8.50	5.72%
LGS-3	7.55	7.97	5.56%
CRR-Top	7.55	7.97	5.56%
CRR-Bottom	6.19	6.48	4.68%

	<u>Current Rate</u> (\$/GJ)	<u>New Rate</u> (\$/GJ)	<u>Percent Change</u> Increase
ACR-1 (Min Use)			
Capital Regional District			
ACR-1 (200)	9.10	9.95	9.34%
ACR-1 (600)	8.33	9.18	10.20%
ACR-1 (2000)	8.33	8.76	5.16%
Other Communities			
ACR-1 (200)	9.49	10.34	8.96%
ACR-1 (600)	8.71	9.57	9.87%

2. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the increase in natural gas rates with an appropriate bill message.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this *ninth* day of May 2002.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair