



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

and

An Application by Centra Gas Whistler Inc.
for Approval of its 2002/03 Revenue Requirements

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner) December 20, 2001
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On November 15, 2001, Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Whistler") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission") to decrease its commodity charge on a permanent basis, effective January 1, 2002, and to further decrease the commodity charge, effective January 1, 2003 ("the Application"); and
- B. Centra Whistler requested that the Application be dealt with through the Commission's Negotiated Settlement Process; and
- C. In accordance with Commission Order No. G-126-01 a Workshop and Pre-hearing Conference was held on December 13, 2001, to discuss various facets of the Application together with a possible regulatory timetable; and
- D. At the December 13, 2001 Pre-hearing Conference, the participants and Centra Whistler identified issues, indicated their preference for a Negotiated Settlement Process, and determined a further regulatory timetable; and
- E. On December 18, 2001, in accordance with discussions at the Workshop, Centra Whistler filed an amended Application, identifying changes in 2002 for forecast propane and operating costs, return on equity, and amortization of the gas cost deferral account; and

- F. The Amended Application requested that Rate Rider A, implemented for recovery of the June 30, 2001 balance of the gas cost deferral account be increased from the existing level of \$0.595/GJ to \$0.987/GJ; and
- G. The Commission requires that rates be made interim and a regulatory process to deal with the Application be established.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. Centra Whistler's commodity charge will be reduced from the existing level of \$15.314/GJ to \$11.613/GJ, effective January 1, 2002 on an interim basis, subject to refund with interest.
2. Rate Rider A will be increased from the existing level of \$0.595/GJ to \$0.987/GJ, effective January 1, 2002 on an interim basis, subject to adjustment after the Negotiated Settlement Process.
3. A Negotiated Settlement Process with respect to the Centra Whistler Application, will commence at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 7, 2002, in Whistler, B.C. at a location to be announced.
4. A Regulatory Timetable for the Application is attached as Appendix A to this Order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 20th day of December 2001.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair

Attachment

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APPENDIX A
to Order No. G-145-01
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CENTRA GAS WHISTLER INC.
Application for Approval of 2002/2003 Revenue Requirements

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

ACTION	DATE (2002)
Filing of Information Requests to Centra Whistler	Friday, January 11
Centra Whistler to respond to Information Requests	Friday, January 25
Negotiated Settlement Process begins (in Whistler)	Thursday, February 7