



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 )  
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner ) October 11, 2001  
)

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On September 24, 2001, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase rates to its Pioneer Large General Service ("LGS") and Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") customers, effective November 1, 2001, pursuant to the Special Direction and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act; and
- B. Under the Special Direction the current Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 rates are set at the lower of a 10 percent discount to the average price of fuel oil or 67 percent of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") residential rate. At current B.C. Hydro rates, the maximum rate that could be charged to Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 customers is \$10.74 per gigajoule; and
- C. As a result of higher competitive fuel oil prices in its service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer LGS customers are proposed to increase between 3.61 to 3.72 percent, effective November 1, 2001. As a result of an increase in the competitive heating oil rates for the retail market pricing tariff, rates for the ACR-1 customers are proposed to increase between 3.65 to 3.94 percent in the Capital Regional District and by 3.52 to 3.79 percent in the North Island District, effective November 1, 2001; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that the increases to the Pioneer Large General Service and ACR-1 rates should be approved.

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

1. An increase in rates to Pioneer LGS customers of between 3.61 and 3.72 percent, is approved, effective November 1, 2001.
2. An increase in rates to ACR-1 customers of between 3.65 to 3.94 percent for customers in the Capital Regional District and between 3.52 to 3.79 percent in the North Island District, is approved, effective November 1, 2001.
3. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the increases in natural gas rates with an appropriate bill message.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2001.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Peter Ostergaard  
Chair