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BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-74-02

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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) October 17, 2002
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On September 30, 2002, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase rates to its Pioneer customer rates Small General Service (SGS-2), Large General Service (LGS-1, LGS-2 and LGS-3) and its Apartment Customer Rates (ACR-1), effective November 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 November 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 November 1, 2002 as follows:

	November 1/02		
	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
	(\$/GJ)	(\$/GJ)	
SGS-2	11.63	11.72	0.77%
LGS-1	9.02	9.70	7.54%
LGS-2	8.50	8.76	3.06%
LGS-3	7.97	8.13	2.01%
CRR-Top	7.97	8.13	2.01%

	November 1/02		
	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
	(\$/GJ)	(\$/GJ)	
ACR-1 (Min Use)			
<u>Capital Regional District</u>			
ACR-1 (200)	10.34	11.12	7.54%
ACR-1 (600)	9.57	9.71	1.46%
<u>Other Communities</u>			
ACR-1 (200)	10.73	11.51	7.27%
ACR-1 (2000)	8.71	8.76	0.57%

2. Centra Gas is to advise all affected Pioneer 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 17th day of October 2002.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair