



**ORDER NUMBER
F-4-21**

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

Pacific Northern Gas (N.E.) Ltd.
2020-2021 Revenue Requirements Application for the Fort St. John/Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Divisions
Compliance Filing of Regulatory Schedules in Accordance with Order G-263-20
Participant Assistance/Cost Award Application

BEFORE:

A. K. Fung, QC, Panel Chair/Commissioner

on January 14, 2021

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On November 17, 2020, Pacific Northern Gas (NE) Ltd. [PNG(NE)] filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) its revised regulatory schedules for the Fort St. John/Dawson Creek (FSJ/DC) and Tumbler Ridge (TR) Divisions in accordance with Directive 13 of Order G-263-20, which reflect the directives and determinations outlined in the 2020-2021 Revenue Requirements Application (RRA) Decision (Compliance Filing);
- B. PNG(NE) requested approval in the Compliance Filing for an alternative treatment of the 2020 delivery rates and 2020 Rate Stabilization Adjustment Mechanism (RSAM) rate rider from that approved by Order G-236-20 as follows:
 - 1. PNG(NE) requested approval for the FSJ/DC and TR Divisions, to make the 2020 interim delivery rates approved by Order G-331-19 permanent and to refund the difference between the 2020 interim delivery rates and the 2020 delivery rates as calculated in the financial schedules of the Compliance Filing to the customers of each division by way of a rate refund rider that would apply to 2021 deliveries; and
 - 2. PNG(NE) requested approval for the FSJ/DC and TR Divisions, to make the 2020 interim RSAM rate rider approved by Order G-331-19 permanent and to record for each division the difference between the 2020 interim RSAM rate rider and the 2020 RSAM rate rider as calculated in the financial schedules of the Compliance Filing in the RSAM interest bearing deferral account for amortization in 2021;
- C. British Columbia Old Age Pensioners' Organization, Active Support Against Poverty, Disability Alliance BC, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC, and Tenants Resource and Advisory Centre (BCOAPO et al.) participated as the sole intervener in the 2020-2021 RRA proceeding and was invited to provide comments on PNG(NE)'s proposed treatment of the 2020 delivery rates and 2020 RSAM rate rider;

- D. By Order G-306-20 dated December 1, 2020, the BCUC varied Directives 1, 2 and 15 of Order G-263-20 to make the 2020 interim delivery rates and the 2020 RSAM rate rider approved by Order G-331-19 permanent and directed PNG(NE) to:
1. Refund the difference between the 2020 permanent delivery rates and the 2020 delivery rates calculated in the financial schedules of the Compliance Filing through a rate refund rider on 2021 deliveries with interest at the average prime rate of PNG(NE)'s principal bank for its most recent year; and
 2. Capture for each of the divisions the difference between the 2020 permanent RSAM rate rider and the 2020 RSAM rate rider as calculated in the financial schedules of the Compliance Filing, in the RSAM interest bearing deferral account for amortization in 2021;
- E. BCOAPO et al. filed the following Participant Assistance/Cost Award application (PACA Application) with the BCUC with respect to its participation in the review of the Compliance Filing:

| Date | Participant | Application |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| December 23, 2020 | BCOAPO et al. | \$2,638.65 |

- F. By emailed correspondence dated January 11, 2021, PNG(NE) provided its comments on the PACA Application, stating that it finds the fees and expenses to be reasonable; and
- G. The BCUC has reviewed the PACA Application in accordance with the criteria and rates set out in the PACA Guidelines, attached to BCUC Order G-97-17, and considers that approval of the cost award is warranted.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to section 118(1) of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the BCUC orders as follows:

1. Funding is awarded to BCOAPO et al. in the listed amount for its participation in the review of PNG(NE)'s Compliance Filing:

| Participant | Award |
|---------------|------------|
| BCOAPO et al. | \$2,638.65 |

2. PNG(NE) is directed to reimburse BCOAPO et al. for the awarded amount in a timely manner.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 14th day of January 2021.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

A. K. Fung, QC
Commissioner