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BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-82-93

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AN ORDER IN THE MATTER OF the Utilities Commission
Act, S.B.C. 1980, c. 60, as amended

and

A Report by an Inquiry Officer on the BC Gas Utility Ltd. Furnace Repair Plan

BEFORE: L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson;)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner; and) September 17, 1993
K.D. Wellman, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. The Commission, by Order No. G-47-91, gave approval to the BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BCGUL") Furnace Repair Plan and issued "Reasons for Decision" attached to that Order; and
- B. The Commission by Order No. G-49-92, appointed Ms. Elsie L. Sands to conduct an Inquiry on the Furnace Repair Plan under specified terms of reference, and to make a report; and
- C. Following receipt and review of the Inquiry Report, the Commission by Order No. G-95-92 required the Furnace Repair Plan to be terminated by BCGUL on the anniversary date following October 8, 1992 for each customer enrolled in the Furnace Repair Plan; and
- D. On November 10, 1992 the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Local 213 ("the IBEW") applied to the Commission, pursuant to Section 114 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act") for reconsideration of the Decision to terminate the Furnace Repair Plan; and
- E. Following a review of the filings, the Commission by Order No. G-121-92, denied the IBEW request for reconsideration; and
- F. On March 29, 1993, the IBEW applied to the Commission, pursuant to Section 114 of the the Act, for a further Reconsideration of Order No. G-121-92; and
- G. Following consideration of the IBEW request along with other complaints from the general public, the Commission concluded that a public review of the Furnace Repair Plan and the Sands Inquiry Report should take place before the next heating season and issued Order No. G-39-93 setting down July 12, 1993 as the date for the public hearing. The Commission invited submissions presenting evidence on the Furnace Repair Plan and the Sands Inquiry Report; and
- H. The public hearing into the Furnace Repair Plan and the Sands Inquiry Report was held in Vancouver, B.C. commencing on July 12, 1993 and concluding on July 19, 1993; and
- I. The Commission has considered the matter and the evidence presented in these proceedings, all as set out in the Decision issued concurrently with this Order.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. Order No. G-95-92 is hereby rescinded.
2. The BCGUL Furnace Repair Plan is to be discontinued on the expiry of existing contracts. Contracts for customers currently involved in the Furnace Repair Plan are to be honoured until the date of expiry of the one-year contract.
3. BCGUL is to provide customers who are currently involved in the Furnace Repair Plan with a list of alternative insurance plans prior to the expiry of the customer's contract.
4. Subject to the filing of a detailed application by BCGUL, the Commission is prepared to consider the amortization of costs incurred for the Furnace Repair Plan over an appropriate period of time.
6. BCGUL will comply with directions contained in the Commission Decision issued concurrently with this Order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 17th day of September, 1993.

BY ORDER



Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair
and Chair of the Division