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CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-15-93

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

and

Commission Order No. G-92-91 and BC Gas Inc.'s Rate Design Proposals

BEFORE: M.K. Jaccard, Chair;)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair;)
K.L. Hall, Commissioner;) March 4, 1993
F.C. Leighton, Commissioner; and)
H.J. Page, Commissioner)

WHEREAS:

- A. Commission Order No. G-92-91 set down BC Gas Inc.'s ("BC Gas") Application for Gas Cost Methodology for public hearing and provided a schedule for future filings of Revenue Requirements and Rate Design for the Lower Mainland, Inland, Columbia and Fort Nelson Divisions; and
- B. On August 5, 1992 the Commission issued Order No. G-63-92 and its Decision covering BC Gas' 1992 Revenue Requirements. The Commission Decision required BC Gas to review certain proposals in its next Rate Design Application; and
- C. On November 9, 1992 B.C. Health Services Ltd. ("BCHS") and Inland Natural Gas Marketing Ltd. ("INGM") complained to the Commission about certain fixed charges contained in the Interruptible and Transportation Rate Schedules of BC Gas and asked for a waiver of certain basic fixed charges that the utility was recovering from customers; and
- D. On November 20, 1992, the Commission wrote to BC Gas confirming that the Phase B Rate Design Application was to be filed by February, 1993; and
- E. On February 26, 1993 BC Gas provided the Commission with an update on its Phase B Rate Design Application and indicated that a final Application would be filed by April 15, 1993. BC Gas also stated that:
 - the timing of its filing of a Rate Design Application is agreeable to BCHS and INGM;
 - it will file with the Commission and other interested parties the key underlining studies of rate design by mid-March 1993;
 - it will hold a meeting on March 24, 1993 to discuss rate design proposals with its industrial customers; and
- F. The Commission has reviewed all of the information pertaining to the matter and has considered that many issues being dealt with in the BC Gas Rate Design Application are inter-related with the BC Gas Revenue Requirements Hearing which is set to commence on May 25, 1993. The Commission therefore has determined that a rate design public hearing must be established.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders BC Gas as follows:

1. A public hearing into the BC Gas Phase B Rate Design is set down for 8:30 a.m. Monday, July 5, 1993 in the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.

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2. Following the filing of the BC Gas Application, the Commission, by way of a future Order and Notice of Public Hearing, will set out other specific timing deadlines including the holding of pre-hearing conferences and the possibility of holding out-of-town hearing locations.
3. BC Gas is to file with the Commission and other interested parties, on or before March 15, 1993, its rate design studies that will form the basis of its Application.
4. BC Gas is to file its Phase B Rate Design Application on or before April 15, 1993.
5. Registered Intervenor in the 1992 BC Gas, Phase A - Gas Cost Methodology hearing and the BC Gas 1993 Revenue Requirements Hearing are automatically registered for the BC Gas Phase B Rate Design hearing unless otherwise requested. Other Intervenor are to register prior to May 17, 1993 and any submissions must be filed by June 14, 1993.
6. BC Gas is to send a copy of the Application documents to registered intervenors in the proceeding.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 5th day of March, 1993.

BY ORDER



Dr. Mark K. Jaccard
Chair

/dlf