

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250  
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6Z 2N3  
CANADA



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER  
NUMBER G-99-96

TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700  
BC TOLL FREE: 1-800-663-1385  
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

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

and

IN THE MATTER OF the Special Direction  
to the British Columbia Utilities Commission by the  
Lieutenant Governor in Council through  
Order in Council 1510, dated December 13, 1995

and

An Application by Centra Gas British Columbia Inc.  
for Approval of its 1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements

**BEFORE:** M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and )  
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson ) October 10, 1996

## O R D E R

### WHEREAS:

- A. On September 27, 1996 Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission pursuant to Section 28 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), and the Special Direction issued by the Lieutenant Governor in Council through Order In Council No. 1510 dated December 13, 1995, which provides the regulatory framework under which Centra Gas will operate until 2003, for approval of its 1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements and deficiencies ("the Application"); and
- B. The Application covers a review of Centra Gas' cost of service for 1996 and 1997 that will not impact on customer rates until after December 31, 2002 and will apply to all customers located on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast that resulted from the 1995 restructuring of utility assets approved by Commission Orders No. G-105-95 and G-108-95; and
- C. The Commission finds that the Application requires further review by way of setting down a regulatory timetable.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission orders as follows:

1. The timetable, attached as Appendix A, summarizes the key dates in the public review process. Further details are provided in the attached Notice of Public Hearing. The hearing will commence at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 1997 at the Dorchester Hotel, 70 Church Street, Nanaimo, B.C.
2. Centra Gas will hold a workshop to brief all potential intervenors and interested parties on the various aspects of the Application and answer questions. The workshop will be on Thursday, October 31, 1996 commencing at 8:30 a.m. at the Dorchester Hotel, Nanaimo, B.C.
3. A pre-hearing conference will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 1996 commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Dorchester Hotel, Nanaimo, B.C.

4. Centra Gas is to distribute copies of the Application and Commission Order No. G-99-96 to all Intervenor as they become registered with the Commission. Centra Gas is to distribute a copy of the Executive Summary and Order No. G-99-96 to interested parties.
5. Centra Gas is to publish, in display ad format, the attached Notice of Public Hearing in the business section of the Vancouver Sun and Province and in local community newspapers in its service areas. Centra Gas is to advise customers, by way of a notice printed on the next customer bill, of the Application, public hearing date, the availability of an Executive Summary and contact telephone numbers for further details.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 10th day of October, 1996.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Dr. Mark K. Jaccard  
Chairperson

**REGULATORY TIMETABLE**

**CENTRA GAS BRITISH COLUMBIA INC.**  
1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements Application

| <u>ACTION</u>                                                                                    | <u>DATE (1996 &amp; 1997)</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deadline for publication of Hearing Notice                                                       | Thursday, October 24          |
| <u>Workshop</u> - Review of Centra Gas Application                                               | Thursday, October 31          |
| Date for issue of Information Requests #1                                                        | Friday, November 8            |
| Deadline to register as intervenors or interested parties                                        | Friday, November 29           |
| Deadline for requests for Participant Funding                                                    | Friday, November 29           |
| Centra Gas Response to Information Requests #1                                                   | Monday, December 2            |
| Pre-hearing Conference                                                                           | Wednesday, December 11        |
| Further Commission order, if necessary, based on inputs from<br>Pre-Hearing Conference           | Friday, December 13           |
| Deadline for Centra Gas to file any further evidence                                             | Monday, December 23           |
| Deadline for issue of further information requests<br>and intervenors to file evidence/testimony | Monday, January 6             |
| Deadline for Centra Gas to respond to all information requests                                   | Monday, January 20            |
| Public hearing begins in Nanaimo                                                                 | Tuesday, February 4           |

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## **NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC HEARING**

### **CENTRA GAS BRITISH COLUMBIA INC. 1996 AND 1997 REVENUE REQUIREMENTS APPLICATION**

|           | <b>Workshop</b>                                       | <b>Pre-Hearing Conference</b>                         | <b>Public Hearing</b>                                 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Time:     | 8:30 a.m.                                             | 9:00 a.m.                                             | 8:30 a.m.                                             |
| Date:     | Thursday, October 31, 1996                            | Wednesday, December 11, 1996                          | Tuesday, February 4, 1997                             |
| Location: | Dorchester Hotel<br>70 Church Street<br>Nanaimo, B.C. | Dorchester Hotel<br>70 Church Street<br>Nanaimo, B.C. | Dorchester Hotel<br>70 Church Street<br>Nanaimo, B.C. |

### **THE APPLICATION**

Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission on September 27, 1996 for review and approval of its 1996 and 1997 Revenue Requirements and deficiencies ("the Application"). The Application will not impact on customers rates until after December 31, 2002 and covers customers located on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. The actual revenue deficiencies, where approved by the Commission, will be accumulated for recovery from customer rates after 2002.

### **THE REGULATORY PROCESS**

- As outlined in a regulatory timetable contained in Order No. G-99-96, Centra Gas will conduct a workshop on Thursday, October 31, 1996 to brief all participants on the various aspects of the Application and will answer questions from the public.
- The Commission will hold a pre-hearing conference on Wednesday, December 11, 1996 to discuss the phasing of the contents of the Application and other issues requiring clarification in advance of the February 4, 1997 public hearing.

### **PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION**

The Application, supporting material and Commission Order No. G-99-96, are available for inspection at the following locations:

#### **Centra Gas British Columbia Inc.**

Head Office: 1675 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3V3

District Offices: Victoria, Sidney, Duncan, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, Courtenay, Campbell River, Colwood, Powell River, Sechelt

Copies of the Application and supporting material are also available for inspection at the office of the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3.

## **INTERVENTIONS**

Intervenors and Interested Parties who wish to take part in the review of the Application are to advise the Commission Secretary of their intention to participate in the proceedings in writing, as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, November 29, 1996.

## **INFORMATION REQUESTS**

Registered Intervenors or Interested Parties requesting additional information from the Applicant should do so as soon as possible, but no later than Monday, January 6, 1997. Information Requests shall be responded to by Centra Gas no later than two weeks after receipt.

## **SUBMISSIONS BY INTERVENORS**

Written submissions or evidence from Intervenors is required to be filed, one copy each, with the Commission Secretary and Centra Gas, by Monday, January 6, 1997.

## **PARTICIPANT FUNDING**

All parties intending to apply for Participant Funding must file a budget by Friday, November 29, 1996 consistent with the Commission's Policy and Rate Sheet as outlined in Order No. G-117-93. Copies of the Participant Funding Policy and Rate Sheet are available upon request.

## **CLARIFICATION**

Persons intending to participate in the Centra Gas workshop, Pre-hearing Conference or in the public hearing process, and who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed, may contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, the Information Services Group, or Mr. Simon Wong, Manager - Rates and Finance, Petroleum; by telephone at 660-4700, or B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385, or in writing to the above address or faxed to 660-1102. The Commission can also be reached on the Internet and the Government Electronic Mail System ("GEMS") at [bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca).

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

Robert J. Pellatt