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CANADA



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-101-96

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

and

an Application by Centra Gas Whistler Inc.
and for Approval to Increase Propane Rates at Whistler, B.C.

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

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On July 29, 1996 Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Gas") filed an application with the Commission to pass-through a rate increase of \$2.193/GJ, to customers for propane grid service, effective September 1, 1996. The rate increase represents the forecasted cost of propane from September 1, 1996 to December 31, 1997 compared to the cost currently recovered in rates. The proposed increase will amount to approximately 22% for the average residential customer; and
- B. During September 1996 the Commission received complaints from customers concerning the proposed increase in propane grid service rates; and
- C. On October 3, 1996 the Commission held a Public Informational Meeting at Whistler, B.C. at which time Centra Gas explained the application and provided customers with information on its propane acquisition efforts; and
- D. The Commission considered the customer concerns and the Centra Gas application and finds that a partial increase in propane rates is required to be passed through to all grid system customers.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission approves for Centra Gas a propane rate increase of \$1.488/GJ effective November 1, 1996 pursuant to Section 67(4) of the Utilities Commission Act. The rate increase will result in approximately a 15% increase in the annual bill of the average residential customer. The difference between the actual cost of propane and the cost recovered in rates is to be recorded in a propane cost deferral account.

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2. Centra Gas is to report to the Commission on the balances of all its deferral accounts as at December 31, 1996 and to determine whether any further increase in rates is required effective January 1, 1997.
3. Centra Gas is to provide all customers with a detailed explanation of the increase in rates and the deferral account treatment of the increased propane costs for the Whistler, B.C. grid system.
4. Centra Gas is to file tariff sheets reflecting the permanent rate increase in a timely manner.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 18th day of October, 1996.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Dr. Mark K. Jaccard
Chairperson