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CANADA



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

and

An Application by BC Gas Utility Ltd.
for Approval of a Performance Based Rate Plan to
Determine Revenue Requirements for the Years 1998 - 2002

BEFORE: M.K. Jaccard, Chairperson; and)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chairperson) February 10, 1997

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On February 5, 1997 BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") filed with the Commission its Performance Based Rate Plan and Revenue Requirements Application 1998—2002 (the "Application") for approval to set rates for the years ending December 31, 1998 to 2002 in accordance with requirements and rate adjustments as set out in the Performance Based Rate Plan ("PBR") submitted with the Application; and
- B. The Commission, in its desire to deal efficiently with issues relating to the Application, requires that an initial timetable and a process for dealing with the issues be established.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission will hold a Pre-Hearing Conference on BC Gas' Application, commencing at 9:00 a.m., on Friday, February 28, 1997 in the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. The Pre-Hearing Conference will address procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - scheduling
 - completeness of the application
 - identification of principal issues
 - process (workshops, information requests, settlement negotiations);
 - location(s) of the hearings; and
 - other matters that will enable the hearing to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.

2. BC Gas will publish, in display-ad format, the attached Notice of Pre-Hearing Conference in the business sections of the The Vancouver Sun and the Province newspapers, and in local newspapers in its service areas by February 15, 1997.
3. Intervenors and Interested Parties who would like to receive a copy of the Application should immediately request a copy from BC Gas and inform the Commission, in writing, by February 28, 1997 of their intention to intervene and/or attend the Pre-Hearing Conference.
4. Following the results of the Pre-Hearing Conference, the Commission will issue an Order outlining further steps and a regulatory timetable that will be followed in the review of the Application.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 10th day of February, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Dr. Mark K. Jaccard
Chairperson

Attachment



NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

BC GAS UTILITY LTD. 1998-2002 PERFORMANCE BASED RATE PLAN

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: Friday, February 28, 1997
Location: Commission Hearing Room
6th Floor, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C.

THE APPLICATION

BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") applied to the Commission on February 5, 1997 for review and approval to establish a method for setting the revenue requirements of BC Gas for the years 1998—2002. The Application applies only to the rates of the Lower Mainland, Inland and Columbia service areas and does not relate to those of the Fort Nelson service area. The rates under tariffs, referred to as "Non-Captive", are not subject to revision by reason of this Application. BC Gas also seeks approval for Orders concerning the Overhead Capitalization Policy and continuation of various deferral accounts as outlined in the Application.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission will hold a pre-hearing conference on Friday, February 28, 1997 to discuss procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- scheduling,
- completeness of the application,
- identification of principal issues,
- process (workshops, information requests, settlement negotiations),
- location(s) of the hearings, and
- other matters that will enable the hearing to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Application is available for public inspection at the following locations:

BC Gas Utility Ltd.

Head Office: 1111 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4M4

District Offices: Kelowna, Penticton, Kamloops, Prince George and Cranbrook, B.C.

An Executive Summary of the Application is available to Interested Parties upon request from BC Gas at no charge.

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 would like to receive a copy of the Application should immediately request a copy from BC Gas and inform the Commission, in writing, by February 28, 1997 of their intention to intervene and/or attend the Pre-Hearing Conference.

CLARIFICATION

Persons intending to participate in the Pre-Hearing Conference, and who are uncertain as to the matter in which to proceed, may contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, the Information Services Group, or Mr. Barry McKinlay, Manager - Rates and Finance, by telephone at 660-4700, or B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385, or in writing to the above address or via facsimile 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.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt