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IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Application by Squamish Gas Co. Ltd.
for Approval to Pass-Through a Natural Gas Rate Increase

BEFORE: K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
F.C. Leighton, Commissioner) June 25, 1997

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On February 26, 1997 Squamish Gas Co. Ltd. ("Squamish Gas") filed, pursuant to the Special Direction under the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act, and the Squamish Rate Stabilization Agreement, for Commission approval an application to amend its schedule of rates for natural gas distribution service to retail customers located in its service area; and
- B. The Commission issued Order No. G-19-97 which approved the February 26, 1997 application for a change in rate levels and allowed the rate increase to be placed in a deferral account effective March 1, 1997. In a similar application Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") requested that the increase in rates to the Pioneer Customers under its Closed Rate Schedules, which included the recovery of the deferral account by way of a rate rider to commence over the next six months, be effective June 1, 1997; and
- C. Pursuant to the Special Direction, Centra Gas surveyed local heating oil dealers and advised the Commission that Light Fuel Oil prices had declined by approximately 15 percent of which one-half was passed on to the Apartments Owners and Property Managers Association. Centra Gas advised that the lower rate should only be passed on to the Apartment/Multi-Family Dwelling ("ACR-1") class at this time; and
- D. On June 16, 1997 Squamish Gas applied for Commission approval to begin charging customers the full rate increase approved under Order No. G-19-97, to pass-through a reduction in the ACR-1 rate schedule, and for a rate rider to recover the accumulated balance in the deferral account, effective July 1, 1997; and

E. The Commission has reviewed the June 16, 1997 application and finds that approval is appropriate.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission approves for Squamish Gas:
 - a pass-through of the rate increase approved by Order No. G-19-97, effective July 1, 1997;
 - a rate rider sufficient to recover the balance in the deferred account approved by Order No. G-19-97 covering the period July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998; and
 - a reduction in rates for the ACR-1 class in accordance with the Squamish Gas Application effective July 1, 1997.
2. Squamish Gas is to inform customers of the July 1, 1997 rate changes and rider by way of a customer notice included in the next billing.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 9th day of July, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Kenneth L. Hall
Commissioner