

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



TELEPHONE: (604) 660-4700
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IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Application by BC Gas Utility Ltd.
regarding its Southern Crossing Pipeline Project

BEFORE: L.R Barr, Deputy Chair)
and Acting Chair) June 27, 1997
F.C. Leighton, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On May 30, 1997 BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") applied to the Commission, pursuant to Section 45 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to expand its existing Interior Transmission System pipeline a distance of 312 km (194 miles), with a 610 mm, (24 inch) pipeline, from Yahk to Oliver, B.C. The CPCN will allow the Utility to construct and operate certain loop and compression facilities which comprise the Southern Crossing Pipeline ("SCP") Project. The SCP Project was previously referred to in the SCP Project Engineering Report and the BC Gas 1997 Integrated Resource Plan update that were filed with the Commission on February 7 and May 5, 1997. These filings have been incorporated as appendices to the CPCN application; and
- B. On June 26, 1997 the Commission held a pre-hearing conference on the BC Gas SCP Application that was set down by Order No. G-63-97. The pre-hearing conference outlined a draft regulatory agenda and timetable to hear the SCP Application. The parties in attendance at the pre-hearing conference reached consensus on a final Regulatory Agenda; and
- C. The Commission finds that the BC Gas SCP CPCN Application requires review by way of a public hearing. A Regulatory Agenda Timetable, in accordance with the results of the pre-hearing conference, is set out in Appendix A.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The review of the BC Gas SCP CPCN application will be by public hearing as provided for under Section 46(2) of the Act.
2. The timetable, attached as Appendix A, summarizes the key dates in the public review process. Further details are provided in the Notice of Public Hearing attached as Appendix B. The hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. on October 14, 1997 in the Commission Hearing Room, 6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C. Regional Town Hall Meetings will take place on November 4, 1997 in Oliver, B.C. and on November 5, 1997 in Castlegar, B.C.
3. BC Gas is to distribute copies of the Application, Commission Orders No. G-63-97 and No. G-75-97 to all Intervenors as they become registered with the Commission. BC Gas is to distribute a copy of an Executive Summary and Order No. G-75-97 to Interested Parties.
4. Based on commitments of the parties at the pre-hearing conference, the Commission expects that proponents of competing proposals will file detailed evidence and provide witness panels to testify at the public hearing.
5. BC Gas is to publish, as soon as possible, in display ad format, the attached Notice of Public Hearing in the business sections of the Vancouver Sun, The Province and the Globe and Mail, and in local community newspapers in its SCP Project service areas. BC 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 27th day of June, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair
and Acting Chair

Attachment

REGULATORY AGENDA TIMETABLE
BC GAS UTILITY LTD.
Southern Crossing Pipeline Project Application

<u>ACTION DEADLINE</u>	<u>DATE (1997)</u>
• Publication of Hearing Notice	Friday, July 11
• Filing Information Request #1 about BCG application	Friday, July 18
• Filing Participant Funding Budgets	Friday, July 25
• BC Gas response to Information Request #1	Friday, August 1
• Filing of detailed evidence from proponents of competing proposals	Friday, August 15
• Workshop for BCG and other proponents to explain their proposals	Friday, August 22
• Filing information requests about competing proposals	Friday, September 5
• Filing Information Request #2 about BCG application	Friday, September 12
• Proponents responses to Information Requests	Friday, September 19
• BC Gas response to Information Request #2	Monday, September 22
• Filing of all other intervenor evidence	Thursday, October 2
• Second Pre-Hearing Conference	Monday, October 6
• Public Hearing commences in Vancouver	Tuesday, October 14
• Town Hall Meeting in Oliver	Tuesday, November 4
• Town Hall Meeting in Castlegar	Wednesday, November 5

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

BC GAS UTILITY LTD.

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE
SOUTHERN CROSSING PIPELINE PROJECT

WORKSHOP

Time: 8:30 a.m.
Date: Friday, August 22, 1997
Location: BC Gas Utility Ltd.
1111 West Georgia Street
Main Floor Meeting Rooms
Vancouver, B.C.

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

9:00 a.m.
Monday, October 6, 1997
B.C. Utilities Commission
6th Floor Hearing Room
900 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C.

PUBLIC HEARING

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 1997
Location: Commission Hearing Room
6th Floor, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 4, 1997
Southwind Inn
34017-97th Street
Oliver, B.C.

7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 5, 1997
Best Western Fireside Inn
1810 - 8th Avenue
Castlegar, B.C.

THE APPLICATION AND REGULATORY PROCESS

BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") applied to the Commission on May 30, 1997 for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to expand its existing Interior Transmission System pipeline a distance of 312 km (194 miles), with a 610 mm (24 inch) pipeline, from Yahk to Oliver, B.C. The CPCN will allow the Utility to construct and operate certain loop and compression facilities which comprise the Southern Crossing Pipeline ("SCP") Project ("the Application").

Under the Utilities Commission Act, BC Gas is required to obtain a CPCN in order to construct and operate the SCP Project. The Commission held a Pre-Hearing Conference into the Application on June 26, 1997 at which time Intervenor commented on the proposed regulatory process which formed the basis of the

Regulatory Timetable set out in Order No. G-75-97. The Commission determined that a public hearing would be held in Vancouver, and it would also travel to Oliver and Castlegar for Town Hall Meetings, as outlined above.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The SCP Project Application, supporting material and Commission Orders No. G-63-97 and G-75-97 are available for inspection at the following locations:

BC Gas Utility Ltd.

Head Office: Mr. Ron Cliff, Project Manager
1111 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4M4
Telephone: (604) 443-6500

District Offices: Fraser Valley, Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna and Cranbrook

Service Area Offices: Penticton, Osoyoos, Grand Forks, Castlegar, Trail, Nelson and Creston

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 did not register for the SCP Project or for the June 26, 1997 pre-hearing conference are to advise the Commission Secretary of their intention to participate in the proceedings, in writing, by Friday, July 18, 1997, indicating the nature of their interest and whether they propose to be full participants or interested parties.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Registered Intervenors or Interested Parties requesting additional information from the Applicant should do so as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, July 18, 1997 (Information Request #1) or September 12, 1997 (Information Request #2). Information Requests shall be responded to by BC Gas as soon as possible, but no later than 2 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 BC Gas, by Thursday, October 2, 1997. In the case of a proponent of a competitive project, detailed evidence is to be filed no later than Friday, August 15, 1997.

PARTICIPANT FUNDING

All parties intending to apply for Participant Funding must file a budget by Friday, July 25, 1997 consistent with the Commission's Policy and Rate Sheet as outlined in Order No. G-103-96. Copies of the Participant Funding Policy and Rate Sheet are available upon request.

CLARIFICATION

Persons intending to participate in the BC Gas SCP Project application and who are uncertain as to the manner in which to proceed, may contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary or Mr. Paul Gronert, Manager, Engineering as follows:

Telephone:	(604) 660-4700	Facsimile:	(604) 660-1102
B.C. Toll Free:	1-800-663-1385	E-mail:	bcuc@pop.gov.bc.ca

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt