



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-2-99

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

and

An Application by Centra Gas Whistler Inc.
for Approval of its 1999 Revenue Requirements

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair)
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner) January 7, 1999
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 23, 1998, Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Whistler") applied to the Commission for approval of its 1999 Revenue Requirements ("the Application") pursuant to Sections 58 and 89 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"); and
- B. The Application forecasts a 1999 revenue surplus due to a decrease in the cost of propane and the full amortization of several deferral accounts which are offset by certain cost increases; and
- C. The Application proposed that current rates become interim effective January 1, 1999, and following an Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") process, to decrease the commodity charge per gigajoule by 14.5 percent, from \$10.769 to \$9.2077, effective April 1, 1999; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed the Application and finds that a Pre-hearing Conference and Public Information Meeting is required.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission Orders as follows:

- 1. The current Centra Whistler rates are ordered to be interim effective January 1, 1999 and permanent 1999 rates will be set following a public review of the Application.
- 2. The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference and Public Information Meeting on the Centra Whistler Application on January 21, 1999 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Coast Whistler Hotel, Regency Room, 4005 Whistler Way (Lower Village), Whistler, 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 the principal issues,
 - process (information requests, settlement negotiations or public hearings),
 - location(s) of the proceedings, and
 - other matters that will enable the proceedings to efficiently cover and review all aspects of the Application.
3. Centra Whistler will publish, in display-ad format, the attached Notice of Pre-hearing Conference and Public Information Meeting (attached as Appendix A), in local community newspapers in Whistler, B.C. by January 15, 1999.
4. Following results of the Pre-hearing Conference, the Commission will issue an Order and a Regulatory Timetable to Registered Intervenors outlining further steps to be followed in the review of the Application.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 8th day of January, 1999.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair

Attachment



NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

CENTRA GAS WHISTLER INC. Application for Approval of a 1999 Revenue Requirements Application

Date: Thursday, January 21, 1999
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Locations: The Coast Whistler Hotel
Regency Room
4005 Whistler Way (Lower Village)
Whistler, B.C.

THE APPLICATION

On December 23, 1998 Centra Gas Whistler Inc. ("Centra Whistler") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission") to set the current rates as interim effective January 1, 1999 and reduce the commodity charge by \$1.5613/GJ or 14.5% effective April 1, 1999 ("the Application").

Centra Whistler has requested that the Application be dealt with through the Commission's Negotiated Settlement Process.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference and Public Information Meeting in Whistler on Thursday, January 21, 1999 to discuss procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Application is available for inspection at the following locations of Centra Whistler:

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

District Offices: 8021 Mons Road, Whistler, B.C.

An Executive Summary of the Application is available to Interested Parties upon request from Centra Whistler 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

Those persons wishing to participate in the Pre-hearing Conference are to advise the Commission Secretary of their intention to do so, in writing, as soon as possible. Intervenors and Interested Parties should inform the Commission in writing, by January 22, 1999, of their intention to become Intervenors or Interested Parties.

Registered Intervenors who actively participate in the review process will receive copies of the Application and all correspondence and filed documentation. Interested Parties who register with the Commission will receive a copy of the Application's Executive Summary, all Orders issued, as well as the Commission's Decision.

PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE

All parties intending to apply for Participant Assistance must submit a budget estimate by February 1, 1999 consistent with the Commission's Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines as outlined in Order No. G-97-98. Copies of these Guidelines are available upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Barry McKinlay, Manager, Rates and Finance as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

E-Mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
Telephone: (B.C. Toll Free) 1-800-663-1385

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt