



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-38-00

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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 Increase Natural Gas Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
L.R. Barr, Deputy Chair) April 13, 2000

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On April 4, 2000, Squamish Gas Co. Ltd. ("Squamish Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase its natural gas General Service customer rates and Apartment Customer Rates ("ACR-1"), effective May 1, 2000, consistent with the Commission's approval of rate increases to Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 schedules for Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") under Order No. G-33-00; and
- B. As a condition of the Special Direction and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act, Centra Gas monitors the prices for heating oil available to customers. Under the Special Direction, the current Centra Gas Pioneer rates are set at the lower of a 10 percent discount to the average price of fuel oil or 67 percent of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") residential electricity rate. At current B.C. Hydro rates, the maximum rate that could be charged to Pioneer customers is \$10.74 per gigajoule; and
- C. As a result of higher competitive fuel oil prices, the oil-based natural gas rates to Centra Gas Pioneer General Service customers were approved to increase by 4.07 percent to SGS-2 customers and between 7.82 to 7.92 percent for LGS-1 to LGS-3 customers, effective May 1, 2000. Rates for the ACR-1 customers were approved to increase between 8.18 to 9.34 percent, effective May 1, 2000, under Order No. G-33-00; and
- D. Squamish Gas adopts the same rate changes for its oil-based natural gas rates as those approved for Centra Gas; and
- E. The Commission has reviewed the Squamish Gas application and finds that approval is required.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Squamish Gas:

1. An increase in rates to General Service customers of 4.07 percent to SGS-2 and SGS-12 customers and between 7.82 to 7.92 percent for LGS-1 to LGS-13 customers, is approved, effective May 1, 2000.
2. An increase in rates to the ACR-1 customers of between 8.18 to 8.85 percent, is approved, effective May 1, 2000.
3. Squamish Gas is to inform all customers of the May 1, 2000 rate increases by way of a customer notice included in the next billing.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 13th day of April 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair