



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-84-00

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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 British Columbia Inc.
for Approval to Change Pioneer Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner)
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner) September 14, 2000
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On August 29, 2000, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to change rates to the Pioneer Large General Service and Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") customers, effective October 1, 2000, pursuant to the Special Direction and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act; and
- B. Under the Special Direction, the current Pioneer General Service 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 rate. At current B.C. Hydro rates, the maximum rate that could be charged to Pioneer General Service customers is \$10.74 per gigajoule. The Pioneer ACR-1 rates are set at a 10 percent discount to the price of fuel oil; and
- C. As a result of higher competitive fuel oil prices in its service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer Large General Service LGS-1, LGS-2 and LGS-3 customers, are proposed to increase between 2.03 to 2.16 percent, effective October 1, 2000. As a result of lower competitive heating oil rates for the retail market pricing tariff, rates for the ACR-1 customers are proposed to decrease between 2.33 to 2.50 percent, effective October 1, 2000; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that amendments to the Pioneer Large General Service and ACR-1 rates should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

1. An increase in rates to the Pioneer Large General Service LGS-1, LGS-2 and LGS-3 customers of between 2.03 to 2.16 percent, is approved, effective October 1, 2000.
2. A decrease in rates to the ACR-1 customers of between 2.33 to 2.50 percent, is approved, effective October 1, 2000.
3. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the changes in natural gas rates with an appropriate bill message.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 14th day of September 2000.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair