



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-19-01

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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 Decrease Pioneer Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner)
B.L. Clemenhagen, Commissioner) February 8, 2001
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On January 24, 2001, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to decrease rates to its Pioneer Large General Service customers and to decrease rates to Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") customers, effective March 1, 2001, 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 and ACR-1 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 and ACR-1 customers is \$10.74 per gigajoule; and
- C. As a result of lower competitive fuel oil prices in its service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer Large General Service LGS-1 to LGS-3 customers are proposed to decrease between 2.66 to 2.67 percent, effective March 1, 2001. 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 5.31 to 6.88 percent in the Capital Regional District and by 2.05 to 6.65 percent in Other Communities, effective March 1, 2001; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that decreases to the Pioneer Large General Service and ACR-1 rates should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

1. A decrease in rates to Pioneer Large General Service LGS-1 to LGS-3 customers of between 2.66 and 2.67 percent, is approved, effective March 1, 2001.
2. A decrease in rates to ACR-1 customers of between 5.31 to 6.88 percent for customers in the Capital Regional District and by 2.05 to 6.65 percent in Other Communities, is approved, effective March 1, 2001.

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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 13th day of February 2001.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair