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BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER NUMBER G-73-01

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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)
R.D. Deane, Commissioner) July 5, 2001
E.J. Rowbotham, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

A. On June 25, 2001, Squamish Gas Co. Ltd. ("Squamish Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase Apartment Customer Rates ("ACR-1") effective July 1, 2001, to be consistent with the rates approved by Commission Order No. G-56-01 for the ACR-1 customers of Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas"); 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 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 electricity 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 higher competitive fuel oil prices, the oil-based natural gas rates to Centra Gas ACR-1 customers located in the Capital Regional District were increased between 2.35 and 2.50 percent, and between 2.28 and 2.42 percent for ACR-1 customers in Other Communities, effective July 1, 2001; and

D. Squamish Gas adopts the same rate changes for its oil-based natural gas rates as those approved for Centra Gas. The current application will make the Squamish Gas rates the same as those for Centra Gas, effective July 1, 2001; and

E. The Commission has reviewed the Squamish Gas application and finds that approval is required.

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NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Squamish Gas:

1. An increase to the ACR-1 rate schedule of between 2.24 and 2.40 percent is approved, effective July 1, 2001.

2. Squamish Gas is to inform all ACR-1 customers of the July 1, 2001 rate changes by way of a customer notice included in the next billing.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this *tenth* day of July 2001.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair