



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

and

An Application by BC Gas Utility Ltd.
for 2003 Revenue Requirements and
Multi-Year Performance-Based Ratemaking

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
R.D. Deane, Commissioner) September 5, 2002
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On June 17, 2002, BC Gas Utility Ltd. ("BC Gas") filed a 2003 Revenue Requirements and Multi-Year Performance-Based Ratemaking Application ("the Application"), pursuant to Sections 58 and 61 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), for approval to establish a revised Schedule of Rates on a permanent basis effective January 1, 2003; and
- B. In accordance with Commission Order No. G-40-02 a Workshop and Pre-hearing Conference was held on July 17, 2002, where the participants indicated that they preferred to make submissions on the desirability of a negotiated settlement or oral public hearing process for any or all components of the Application after a series of information requests and responses; and
- C. In accordance with the Regulatory Timetable established by Commission Order No. G-52-02, Registered Intervenor made their submissions on September 4, 2002; and
- D. After reviewing the submissions, the Commission has determined that it is necessary to establish a regulatory timetable and to solicit issues lists for the 2003 Revenue Requirements component of the Application; and
- E. By establishing a thorough public record for a 2003 base year, the Commission anticipates that an efficient negotiated settlement process on a future multi-year performance-based ratemaking application may follow in 2003.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. In order to establish rates effective January 1, 2003, the Commission refers the 2003 Revenue Requirements component of the Application to an oral public hearing process pursuant to the Regulatory Timetable that is attached as Appendix A to this Order. The public hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2002 in the Commission's Hearing Room, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.
2. Registered Intervenors are to submit a list of issues, with suitable descriptions and reasons, which they intend to pursue at the oral public hearing.
3. In an effort to streamline the hearing process, Registered Intervenors are to submit a list of issues, with suitable descriptions and reasons, which may be amenable to discussion and resolution among affected parties in advance of the oral public hearing. Issues such as such as tariff wording, unbundling, load forecasts, transfer pricing and code of conduct policy may be clarified and resolved prior to the oral public hearing. If a working group on an issue reaches consensus on the issue, it will file an exhibit at the commencement of the oral public hearing which will then be available to all participants to utilize in their examination of witnesses or final arguments.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 6th day of September 2002.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair

Attachment

BC GAS UTILITY LTD.
2003 Revenue Requirements

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

ACTION	DATE (2002)
Supplementary Information Requests on 2003 Revenue Requirement Issues	Wednesday, September 18
BC Gas Responses to Information Requests	Friday, September 27
Lists of Issues Submitted by Intervenors to the Commission, with copies to BC Gas and other Intervenors	Friday, October 4
Lists of Issues which may be discussed and resolved prior to the oral public hearing	Friday, October 4
Intervenor Evidence on 2003 Revenue Requirement Issues	Friday, October 11
Information Requests on Intervenor Evidence	Friday, October 18
Intervenor Responses to Information Requests	Friday, November 1
Oral Public Hearing on 2003 Revenue Requirement Issues	Tuesday, November 12