



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 Increase Pioneer Apartment Customer Rates

BEFORE: K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner) September 12, 2002

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On August 23, 2002, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to increase rates to its Pioneer Apartment Customer Rates ("ACR-1") for customers consuming less than 2,000 GJ per annum, effective October 1, 2002, pursuant to the Special Direction (Order in Council 1510, 1995) and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act; and
- B. Under the Special Direction, effective in 2002, the current Pioneer customer rates are set at the lower of either the average competitive price of fuel oil with a zero percent discount or the applicable New Customer rate; and
- C. As a result of the monthly survey of competitive fuel oil prices in the service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer ACR-1 customers are proposed to increase effective October 1, 2002; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that the increases to the Pioneer ACR-1 customer rates should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission approves the following for Centra Gas:

1. An increase to ACR-1 Pioneer customer rates effective October 1, 2002 as follows:

	<u>Current Rate</u> (\$/GJ)	<u>October 1/02 New Rate</u> (\$/GJ)	<u>Percentage Change</u> Increase
ACR-1 (Min Use)			
Capital Regional District			
ACR-1 (200)	9.44	10.34	9.53%
ACR-1 (600)	8.66	9.57	10.51%
Other Communities			
ACR-1 (200)	9.83	10.73	9.16%
ACR-1 (600)	9.05	9.71	7.29%

BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER G-64-02

2

2. Centra Gas is to advise all affected ACR-1 customers of the increase in natural gas rates with an appropriate bill message.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 12th day of September 2002.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Kenneth L. Hall
Acting Chair and
Commissioner