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**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER  
NUMBER** G-2-05

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

**and**

**An Application by Stargas Utilities Ltd.  
for Approval of Rate and Tariff Changes**

**BEFORE:** L.F. Kelsey, Commissioner January 6, 2005  
K.L. Hall, Commissioner

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. The Commission, by Order No. C-4-00, approved a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Stargas Utilities Ltd. ("Stargas", "the Company") to operate a natural gas distribution system at the resort community of Silver Star; and
- B. On October 22, 2004, Stargas filed an Application to decrease residential rates by 11 cents per GJ and commercial rates by 31 cents per GJ. The Application also proposed the deferment of a gas supply take or pay penalty of approximately \$45,000 with amortization over 5 years. The Application proposed administrative recoveries of 2.5 percent for customers paying bills by credit or debit cards and an additional administrative fee to new customers equal to 10 percent of the cost of installing the new service ("the Application"); and
- C. On January 4, 2005, Stargas proposed to withdraw the Application and to re-file after its May 31, 2005 fiscal year end; and
- D. On January 5, 2005, Stargas revised its Application to make the current rates interim effective January 1, 2005. Stargas proposed that it would file an amended Application in early July, 2005 for the 12 month period from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005 including actual results for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2005 ("the Revised Application"); and
- E. The Commission has reviewed the Stargas proposal to file a Revised Application and considers that approval is warranted.

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2

**NOW THEREFORE** the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Commission orders that the current Stargas rates for residential and commercial customers are set as interim effective January 1, 2005.
2. Stargas is to file the Revised Application by July 18, 2005 that contains the actual results from January 1, 2005 to May 31, 2005 and forecast results for June 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005. If the permanent 2005 rates that are set following the Commission's review of the Revised Application are lower than the current interim rates the rate refunds will include interest at the average prime rate of the principal bank with which Stargas conducts its business.
3. Stargas is to inform its customers by a bill message that the current residential and commercial rates are interim effective January 1, 2005. The bill message is to contain an estimate of the rate change for residential and commercial customers that will be included in the Revised Application. Stargas is to provide a copy of the bill message to the Commission for its review prior to publication.
4. The Commission will accept, subject to timely filing, amended gas tariff pages in accordance with the approvals given in this Order.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2005.

BY ORDER

*Original signed by:*

L.F. Kelsey  
Commissioner