

MANITOBA | **Order No. 44/04**
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT | **March 24, 2004**

Before: Graham F. J. Lane, C.A., Chairman
M. Girouard, Member
Mario J. Santos, B.A., LL.B, Member

AN APPLICATION BY CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. FOR AN INTERIM EX PARTE ORDER APPROVING THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ZONE TO ITS ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE ZONES AS SET FORTH IN THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

1.0 Background

As the measurement of natural gas is influenced by barometric pressure, different fixed factors are necessary to compensate for differences in elevation. In conformance with The Electricity and Gas Inspection Act, Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s ("Centra") Terms and Conditions of Service currently specify three different pressures zones. Each zone has a fixed compensating factor, based on the average barometric pressure for each zone. Customer bill volumes are currently adjusted to one of the three pressure zone factors.

Centra's recent purchase of the assets of the Gladstone, Austin Natural Gas Co-op (the "Co-op") was approved by the Board in Order 20/04, dated February 6, 2004. Centra recently began preparing the billing process by adding the former Co-op customers to Centra's billing system. Centra determined that approximately 20 of these customers are situated at elevations outside of all three of Centra's existing pressure zones. Centra previously stated its intention to bill and provide service to the Co-op customers under Centra's Terms and Conditions of Service.

2.0 The Application

On March 17, 2004, Centra applied to the Board for interim ex-part approval to add an additional zone to its existing Atmospheric Pressure Zones as outlined in its Terms and Conditions of Service. The additional zone will apply to all locations between elevations of 1,041 feet and 1,179 feet above sea level (representing an average barometric pressure of 14.18 Pounds per Square Inch Absolute "PSIA") and will be designated as Zone "D" in Centra's Terms and Conditions of Service.

