

M A N I T O B A) Order No. 137/05
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) October 12, 2005

BEFORE: Graham F. J. Lane, B.A., C.A., Chairman
Monica Girouard, C.G.A., Member
Mario J. Santos, B.A., LL.B., Member

CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. - GENERAL RATE APPLICATION:
APPLICATION OF TIME TO RESPECT EARTH'S ECOSYSTEMS INC.
AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION MANITOBA
FOR AN AWARD OF COSTS

Introduction

On February 11, 2005, The Public Utilities Board ("the "Board") issued Order No. 22/05 approving a public hearing process to consider Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s ("Centra") General Rate Application ("GRA"). Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems Inc. and Resource Conservation Manitoba ("TREE/RCM") was accepted as an Intervener by the Board and intervened in the subsequent proceeding.

On July 20, 2005, TREE/RCM filed an application for costs, as follows:

Consulting Fees	\$37,458.65
Disbursements	\$ 610.18
Total	<u>\$38,068.83</u>

Support for the Application

With respect to the Board's established criteria for an award of costs, in its application for costs TREE/RCM reminded the Board of both its substantial interest in the outcome of the proceedings and its financial need.

TREE/RCM also opined that they had made a unique contribution to the proceedings by describing in some detail how Centra Gas can implement the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development found in Manitoba's *Sustainable Development Act*, while also considering the special circumstances of Centra's low-income residential customers.

In its letter of July 29, 2005, Centra Gas noted that TREE/RCM's application for costs was within its initial proposed budget for the intervention, and on that basis, advised it had no objection to the Board granting TREE/RCM's application for costs.

Board Findings

The Board reviewed TREE/RCM's application and noted that TREE/RCM's preparation and appearance time costs were generally in accordance with its initial proposed budget.

The Board finds that TREE/RCM made a significant contribution to the proceeding, particularly in supporting energy conservation and the discussion surrounding low-income customers. With the possible exception of the Board, no other Intervener addressed these issues in depth.

The Board found TREE/RCM's intervention to have been co-operative, efficient and effective. The Board notes in particular the contributions of Professor Miller, for which TREE/RCM sought no award of costs.

Accordingly, the Board will award costs to TREE/RCM in full.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems Inc. and Resource Conservation Manitoba's application for an award of costs be allowed in the full amount of \$38,068.83; and
2. The costs shall be payable by Manitoba Hydro upon receipt of this Order.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"GRAHAM F. J. LANE, C.A."
Chairman

"H. M. SINGH"
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order
No. 137/05 issued by The Public
Utilities Board

Acting Secretary