

MANITOBA) Order No. 157/05
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) November 17, 2005

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

CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC.
APPLICATION FOR AN INTERIM EX-PARTE ORDER
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
EXISTING FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CENTRA AND THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STE. ANNE

1.0 Introduction

In this Order the Manitoba Public Utilities Board (the Board) approves Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s (Centra) application for an amendment providing for a modest expansion of the existing franchise agreement between Centra and the Rural Municipality of Ste. Anne (Ste. Anne).

2.0 The Application

On October 5, 2005 Centra applied to the Board on its own behalf and that of Ste. Anne, for interim ex-parte approval and authorization of an amendment to the existing franchise agreement between Centra and Ste. Anne.

On September 14, 2005, Ste. Anne gave first reading to a By-law permitting Centra to extend its franchise to provide expanded service. The proposal was to add portions of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 7, Township 7, Range 7, EPM as contained within the boundaries of the Municipality of Ste. Anne to the existing franchise agreement which includes Wards 4, 5 and 6.

Centra requested approval on an interim ex-parte basis at the Board's earliest convenience in order to accommodate an early construction start. Given the Board's concurrence, Centra will seek final approval of the Board at the next public regulatory proceeding.

Centra was asked to extend natural gas service to a homeowner in the Municipality. The potential residential customer's property is located next to the existing main,

thus requiring only a service line from the existing natural gas main.

The proposed 26.7 mm (NPS ¾") service will tie into the existing 50.3 mm (NPS 2") polyethylene distribution pipe located on Municipal Road 36E in the R.M. of Hanover. The installation of the service line will be accomplished by a variety of techniques.

3.0 Board Findings

The Board notes the application meets the Board's requirements, and would only serve two potential new customers. Given current market prices of natural gas and future uncertainties surrounding the market, the Board considers the cautious expansion approach taken by Centra to be prudent and reasonable.

The Board will approve the request.

Due to the need to commence construction as soon as possible and the limited nature of the expansion, to enable gas to flow this fall the Board will approve the application on an interim ex-parte basis.

4.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The amendment to the existing Franchise Agreement between the Rural Municipality of Ste. Anne and Centra Gas Manitoba Inc., as requested, BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED, on an interim ex-parte basis.
2. This interim Order remain in full effect until confirmed or otherwise altered by a subsequent Order of the Board.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

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

"H. M. SINGH"
Acting Secretary

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No. 157/05 issued by The Public
Utilities Board

Acting Secretary