

PO Box 815 • Winnipeg Manitoba Canada • R3C 2P4
Street Location for DELIVERY: 22<sup>rd</sup> floor – 360 Portage Avenue
Telephone / Nº de téléphone : (204) 360-3257 • Fax / Nº de télécopieur : (204) 360-6147 • baczarnecki@hydro.mb.ca

July 31, 2014

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD OF MANITOBA 400-330 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4

ATTENTION: Mr. H. M. Singh, Board Secretary and Executive Director

Dear Mr. Singh:

RE: CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. ("CENTRA")
INTERIM APPLICATION FOR NON-PRIMARY GAS RATE RIDERS

Please find attached nine (9) copies of Centra's Application to the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba ("PUB") for an Interim Order pursuant to section 47(2) of *The Public Utilities Board Act* approving changes to its Transportation (to Centra) and Distribution (to Customers) sales and transportation rates to reflect the implementation of new non-Primary Gas rate riders effective November 1, 2014.

In this Application, Centra is requesting interim approval of rate riders to dispose of an estimated net balance in the non-Primary Gas Purchased Gas Variance Accounts ("PGVA") and other gas costs deferral accounts to October 31, 2014 (including carrying costs) of approximately \$45.7 million, owing to Centra. Centra is proposing to recover the balance in the Supplemental Gas PGVA over a 24-month period, instead of the traditional 12-month period, in order to mitigate the impact on customers' bills.

If approved by the PUB, the bill impact of the rate changes proposed in this Application would be an annualized increase for the typical residential customer of approximately \$39 per year or 4.6%. The annualized bill impact for larger volume customers ranges from increases of 0.1% to 11.9%, depending on customer class and consumption levels.

This Application deals with non-Primary Gas rate riders only. Consistent with past practice, Centra will seek adjustments to base rates for the 2014/15 gas year after the conclusion of the current gas year and as part of its next regulatory proceeding. Centra will seek final approval of any interim Orders flowing from this Application at that time.

Centra proposes that the review of this Application be accomplished by way of a written process and has included a draft timetable for the PUB's consideration. The proposed timetable contemplates one round of information requests due to Centra on August 22, 2014, Centra filing responses to information requests on September 12, 2014, intervener written

submissions on or before September 26, 2014 and a reply submission by Centra on October 10, 2014. Centra respectfully requests an Order from the PUB with respect to this Application on or before October 30, 2014 in order to implement the proposed rate changes on November 1, 2014.

Copies of this Application have also been distributed to the PUB advisors and provided in electronic format to Interveners to Centra's 2013/14 General Rate Application proceeding. Centra will also provide notification to all Interruptible, Mainline, High-Volume, Special Contract and Power Station customers of this Application. Given the costs of publication of a notice in daily and weekly newspapers throughout the Province, and given that any interim Orders flowing from this Application will be reviewed at Centra's next regulatory proceeding, Centra respectfully requests the PUB to dispense with the newspaper publication of a Notice in this case. Centra will await the PUB's direction on procedural matters. Should publication in the newspapers be required, approval of a Notice by August 8, 2014 would allow Centra to arrange for publication in the August 16<sup>th</sup> weekend editions, and the August 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> daily editions of the newspapers.

Should you have any questions with respect to this submission, please contact the writer at (204) 360-3257 or Greg Barnlund at (204) 360-5243.

Yours truly,

## MANITOBA HYDRO LAW DIVISION

Per:

Brent A. Czarnecki Barrister & Solicitor

Att.

cc: Mr. B. Peters, Fillmore Riley

Mr. R. Cathcart, Cathcart Advisors Inc.

Mr. B. Ryall, Ryall Engineering

Interveners to Centra's 2013/14 General Rate Application