



News Release

July 22, 2008

By Order No. 109/08, the Public Utilities Board (Board) amends the guidelines and rules that support the marketing of primary natural gas in Manitoba. The allowable sales channels for marketing primary natural gas will be extended to include telephone and internet sales, in addition to the previous and continuing allowed practices of door-to-door and mail-based marketing.

The approach previously in place was established ten years ago by Board Order 15/98. Then, the expectation was that natural gas consumers would enjoy a variety of options providing opportunities to reduce their natural gas bills. However, the expectations of Order 15/98 were not realized and the new guidelines are anticipated to improve the situation.

The revised Code of Conduct, available on the Board's website, reflects the new marketing rules. Of significance to consumers are more stringent requirements on marketers to inform potential clients of the nature of the transaction they are considering. In addition, the Board is developing a "price disclosure" webpage which, when ready, will allow consumers to compare prices between suppliers.

A copy of this Order may either be reviewed on the Board's website www.pub.gov.mb.ca, or obtained from the Board's Office.

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