NOTICE OF HEARING AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. 2013/14 GENERAL RATE APPLICATION

APPLICANT: CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. (CENTRA)

APPLICATION: 2013/14 General Rate Application (GRA) for approval of rates charged for

service to natural gas customers.

General Rate Application

Centra has applied to The Public Utilities Board (the Board), for an Order pursuant to *The Public Utilities Board Act*, for the following:

1. Approval of an approximate 2.0% general revenue increase effective August 1, 2013, sufficient to generate additional revenue of \$6 million and projected net income of \$5 million in 2013/14:

- 2. Approval of adjustments to rates to reflect changes in forecast non-Primary Gas costs, to be effective August 1, 2013; and
- Approval of Supplemental Gas, Transportation (to Centra), Distribution (to Customers) Sales and Transportation rates, Basic Monthly Charges, the Primary Gas Overhead rate and the Fixed Rate Primary Gas Service (FRPGS) Program Cost Rate, effective August 1, 2013.

Centra has filed material with the Board in support of its proposed Revenue Requirement. Centra plans to file additional material with respect to its Customer and Volume Forecast, Rate Base/Rate of Return, Cost of Gas and Gas Cost Deferral Account balances, Cost Allocation and Rate Design, proposed changes to its Terms & Conditions of Service, and responses to prior directives of the Board, in February 2013.

It is Centra's intention to update the Application with updated forward market prices prior to the public hearing. The Board will publish a subsequent Notice indicating the approximate bill impacts for the August 1, 2013 rate change, by customer class, once this information is available.

As part of this Application, Centra is also requesting the following:

- 1. Final approval of gas costs for the period of November 1, 2010 to October 31, 2012;
- 2. Final approval of the disposition through rate riders of the various non-Primary Gas Purchased Gas Variance Accounts (PGVA), and other gas cost deferral account balances as at October 31, 2012;
- 3. Approval of a change to the rate setting methodology for the Fixed Rate Primary Gas Service to self-insure the volumetric and market price risk for each subsequent offering;

- Approval to vary Order 95/00, Directive 8 to eliminate the requirement for Centra to submit a feasibility test to the Board for approval prior to commencement and construction of future expansions greater than 500 metres in the Rural Municipalities of Woodlands and Bifrost;
- 5. Approval of changes to the Terms & Conditions of Service, including updated Activity Rates for chargeable services, changes to Centra's Customer Equipment Problem Program for Small General Service customers, and the introduction of new charges to recover costs related to third party damages to utility plant, to take effect upon Order of the Board; and
- 6. Final approval of all interim rate Orders issued by the Board to date as well as subsequent to the filing of the Application and prior to conclusion of this proceeding. All such interim Orders can be viewed at the Board's website.

PARTICULARS OF FILING:

Full particulars of this Application can be obtained by interested parties from:

Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. Attention: Ms. M.D. Boyd 22nd Floor - 360 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, MB. R3C 0G8 Telephone: 204-360-3468 (collect calls accepted) Email: mboyd@hydro.mb.ca

The Public Utilities Board Attention: Mr. H. M. Singh 400 – 330 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4 Telephone: 204-945-2638 Toll free: 1(866)854-3698

Email: mboyd@hydro.mb.ca
Email: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca

An electronic version of the Application is located at http://www.hydro.mb.ca/regulatory affairs/gas/gra 2013/index.shtml

PRE-HEARING & ISSUES CONFERENCE:

The Board will convene a Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) on March 1, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., in its Hearing Room located on the 4th Floor, 330 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Those seeking Intervener status should notify the Board of their intention by applying to the Board Secretary before February 27, 2013. Interveners may be entitled to financial assistance, and the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules) provide the related guidelines, which can be seen at the Board's website at www.pub.gov.mb.ca, or obtained on request to the Board by either emailing (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca), writing or calling the Board Secretary (204-945-2638 or 1-866-854-3698, toll free). Parties wishing to submit written comments or to make a presentation during the public review process should also contact the Board Secretary.

The purpose of the PHC is, among other things, to identify interveners and their reasons for intervention, to provide an opportunity for interveners to cooperate and avoid duplication of interventions, and to finalize a timetable for the orderly exchange of evidence and information, including the public hearing dates.

Parties wishing to address the PHC in French are required to notify the Board's Secretary in advance of the PHC and no later than February 28, 2013.

VARIATION:

Upon any application to it, the Board may make an Order granting the whole or part only of the Application, or may grant such further or other relief in addition to or in substitution for that applied for, as fully and in all respects as if the application had been for such partial or further or other relief.

DATED this 5th day of February, 2013.

H. M. Singh Secretary The Public Utilities Board

Wheelchair access is available



Five days notice required

