

Order No. 96/24

**ORDER APPROVING
CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC.'S
REQUEST TO
REVIEW AND VARY ORDER 92/24
(Extension of GRA Filing Date to September 30, 2024)**

August 13, 2024

BEFORE: Marilyn Kapitany, B.Sc.(Hon), M.Sc., Panel Chair
Carol Bellringer, FCPA, FCA, Member
Shawn McCutcheon, Member
Susan Nemec, FCPA, FCA, Member
Kurt Simonsen, BSc., M.N.R.M., Member

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Order 92/24, the Public Utilities Board (“Board”) directed Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. (“Centra”) to file a general rate application for the 2024/25 fiscal year by August 30, 2024. This order approves a request by Centra to review and vary Order 92/24 to extend the filing date to September 30, 2024. The Board reminds Centra that it has the option of including additional test years beyond 2024/25 in its filing.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

2.1 **Order 92/24**

Centra has not filed a general rate application since 2019. The Board's expectation (as described in Order 208/02) is that both Manitoba Hydro and Centra file general rate applications at least once every three years.

In Order 92/24, the Board expressed concern that Centra has not brought a general rate application in six years. Among the concerns raised by the Board were an erosion of Centra's net income and the many changes to Centra's cost of service methodology approved in Order 109/22. The Board further expressed concern whether, in light of these issues, customer rates remain just and reasonable. As a result, the Board issued the following directives to the utility:

- 1. Centra shall file its 2024/25 fiscal year General Rate Application with the Board on or before August 30, 2024.*
- 2. At its option, Centra may include one or two subsequent test years in the General Rate Application required to be filed under Directive 1.*

2.2 **Centra's Request to Review and Vary the Order**

On August 9, 2024, Centra filed a request to review and vary Directive 1 of Order 92/24 to extend the filing deadline from August 30, 2024 to September 30, 2024. Applications to review and vary an order of the Board are permitted under subsection 44(3) of *The Public Utilities Board Act* and rules 36 and 40 of the Board's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

Centra cites two principal reasons for its application:

- Firstly, the utility notes that Manitoba Hydro's new President & CEO only joined the utility on August 6, 2024 and needs to become acquainted with the organization, its staff, its oversight board, and the key issues involved in a rate filing.

- Secondly, the utility notes efforts by the provincial government to develop an energy policy that may have implications for Centra's general rate application. Centra states that it expects the energy policy to be finalized in the near term but that, for now, its development requires significant attention from the same Centra staff who are preparing the general rate application.

Centra submits that, in light of these reasons, a brief 30-day extension is justified, and that such an extension does not result in any material or irreparable harm to any of Centra's customers or parties expected to participate in the general rate application.

3.0 BOARD FINDINGS

In light of the appointment of a new CEO and ongoing uncertainty surrounding the provincial energy policy, the Board is satisfied that a brief 30-day extension is justified and does not cause undue prejudice to ratepayers. The Board finds that it is in the public interest to review and vary Order 92/24 as requested by Centra and accordingly extends the deadline for filing Centra's general rate application from August 30, 2024 to September 30, 2024.

4.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT

1. Directive 1 of Order 92/24 **BE AND HEREBY IS VARIED** to strike out “August 30, 2024” and substitute “September 30, 2024”.


Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Board’s Rules may be viewed on the Board’s website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

“Marilyn Kapitany, B.Sc.(Hon), M.Sc.”
Panel Chair

“Rachel McMillin, B.Sc.”
Associate Secretary

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issued by The Public Utilities Board


Associate Secretary