

MANITOBA
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT

Order No. 49/12

April 26, 2012

BEFORE: Monica Girouard, C.G.A., Acting Chair
Len Evans, LLD, Member
Raymond Lafond, B.A., C.M.A., F.C.A., Member
Régis Gosselin, C.G.A., M.B.A., Chair

**INTERVENER STATUS AND PROCESS:
CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC.
TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE PORTFOLIO APPLICATION**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board):

- a) grants intervener status to Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc.; Just Energy (Manitoba) L.P.; Shell Energy North American (Canada) Inc.; and BP Canada Energy Group ULC;

- b) establishes a timetable to consider Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s (Centra) Transportation & Storage Portfolio Application.

BACKGROUND

In a public notice (published in daily and weekly newspapers beginning March 31, 2012), the Board advised of Centra's Transportation & Storage Portfolio Application and invited applications for Intervener status.

At the Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) held at the Board offices in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, the Board heard applications for intervener status and, also, considered a timetable for the orderly exchange of evidence leading up to an Oral Public Hearing.

APPLICATIONS FOR INTERVENER STATUS

Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. (CAC)

CAC has long represented general consumers' issues at regulatory proceedings related to Centra and its parent company Manitoba Hydro. CAC sought intervener status, expressing an interest in all issues pertaining to Centra's Application.

CAC indicated an intention to appear throughout the hearing, produce evidence, test evidence, and make final arguments. CAC also noted it intended to produce an expert witness related to the subject matter of Centra's application.

CAC indicated it would apply for costs, with its hearing budget to be filed following the Board's determination of the draft timetable. Centra had no objection to CAC being granted intervener status.

Just Energy (Manitoba) L.P. (JEMPLP)

While JEMPLP was not in attendance at the PHC, a written Intervener Application was filed. JEMPLP noted an intention to appear throughout the hearing, as required, and provide final submissions (JEMPLP indicated no intention of producing witnesses).

JEMPLP does not intend to apply for costs.

Centra had no objection to JEMLP being granted intervener status.

Shell Energy North America (Canada) Inc. (Shell Energy)

Shell Energy filed a written Intervener Application advising that it does not intend to appear throughout the hearing nor call witnesses. Shell Energy intends to monitor developments and does not attend to actively participate in the proceeding unless developments warrant its greater involvement.

Shell Energy does not intend to apply for costs.

Centra had no objection to Shell Energy being granted intervener status.

BP Canada Energy Group ULC (BP Canada)

BP Canada is a large supplier of natural gas to both Transportation Service (T-Service) and Western Transportation Service (WTS) customers served by Centra.

While BP Canada will only be monitoring this proceeding, it did seek to reserve the ability to participate more fully should any issues arise, to which BP Canada wants to respond.

BP Canada does not intend to apply for costs.

Board Finding – Intervener Status

The Board will grant intervener status to:

- Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. (CAC);
- Just Energy (Manitoba) L.P. (JEMLP);
- Shell Energy North America (Canada) Inc. (Shell Energy); and
- BP Canada Energy Group ULC (BP Canada).

The Board has the discretion to award costs, and notes that CAC is the only intervener request seeking a cost award. The granting of a cost award by the Board is dependent upon the Board's view of how such an award serves the public interest. Criteria used by the Board in its assessment of cost award applications are set out in the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which may be found on the Board's website, www.pub.gov.mb.ca. In addition to the criteria, the Board maintains a tariff with respect to the hourly rates charged by professionals and/or others assisting parties seeking cost awards; guidance is available from Board Staff.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

The draft timetable, for the orderly exchange of information prior to the Oral Public Hearing, filed by Centra on February 9, 2012, has been revised and is attached.

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 (Rules). The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pub.gov.mb.ca.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Intervener Status for participation in the hearing process respecting Centra's Transportation & Storage Portfolio Application BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED FOR:
 - i) Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc.;
 - ii) Just Energy (Manitoba) L.P.;
 - iii) Shell Energy North America (Canada) Inc.; and
 - iv) BP Canada Energy Group ULC

2. The timetable for the orderly exchange of evidence is attached as Schedule "A" and will be posted on the Board's website.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"MONICA GIROUARD, C.G.A."
Acting Chair

"KURT SIMONSEN, P.Eng."
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order
No.49/12 issued by The Public
Utilities Board

Acting Secretary

SCHEDULE “A”

Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.

ITEM	DUE –no later than
File Application and Draft Public Notice	Friday, March 23, 2012
PUB Approval of Notice	Monday, March 26, 2012
Publish Notice in Daily/Weekly Newspaper	March 31 - April 6, 2012
Interested Parties to Register for Intervener Status	Monday, April 9, 2012
Pre-Hearing Conference	Wednesday, April 11, 2012
Technical Conference	Wednesday, April 18, 2012
Centra’s Receipt of Information Requests	Monday, April 30, 2012
Centra’s Responses to Information Requests	Tuesday, May 15, 2012
All Parties in Receipt of Intervener Evidence	Friday, May 25, 2012
All Parties to File Information Requests of Intervener Evidence	Friday, June 1, 2012
Interveners to File Responses to Information Requests	Friday, June 8, 2012
Centra Rebuttal Evidence, if any, to be filed	Friday, June 15, 2012
Public Hearing in Board’s Hearing Room	June 25 - 28, 2012
Final Submissions	Wednesday, July 4, 2012