

MANITOBA) Order No. 85/14
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) July 24, 2014

BEFORE: Régis Gosselin, MBA, CGA, Chair
Marilyn Kapitany, BSc (Hons), MSc, Member
Neil Duboff, BA (Hons), LLB, TEP, Member

**CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC.: PRIMARY GAS RATE
AND REMOVAL OF NON-PRIMARY GAS RATE RIDERS
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2014**

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1. Summary

By this Order the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves, on an interim *ex parte* basis, Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s (Centra) application to decrease the current Primary Gas rate to \$0.1551/m³ effective August 1, 2014. The Primary Gas billed rate approved by the Board for May 1, 2014 was \$0.1567/m³. The interim approved rate of \$0.1551/m³ will continue until further Order of the Board. The Board also approves the removal of rate riders that applied to Centra's Transportation (to Centra) and Distribution (to Customers) Rates. As a result of the removal of the rate riders, the Transportation and Distribution rates either increase or decrease depending on the customer class.

2. Introduction

Centra is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Manitoba Hydro. Centra's quarterly Primary Gas rates are subject to the approval of the Board pursuant to provisions of *The Public Utilities Board Act*.

The five components of natural gas rates billed to Centra's customers are:

- Primary Gas - quarterly-priced system gas from Centra or gas purchased by customers from either Centra or independent gas marketers and brokers under fixed-price contracts;
- Supplemental Gas – is gas that is required to meet the needs of Centra's customers during periods of peak load or other seasonal requirements, and includes gas sourced from locations other than Western Canada. Supplemental Gas is applicable to the majority of customers, whether they purchase quarterly-priced Primary Gas from Centra or fixed priced gas through contracts;

- Transportation (to Centra) - applicable to the majority of customers and is the cost of transporting natural gas to Manitoba from Alberta and the United States, including pipeline charges and the cost of gas storage facilities;
- Distribution (to Customer) - applicable to all customers and recovers the cost of delivering natural gas to a customer's home or business, including the cost of pipelines and facilities, as well as the operation and maintenance costs for the distribution system and a small cost component related to unaccounted-for gas; and
- Basic Monthly Charge - applicable to all customers and recovers costs related to customer service including meter reading and billing, as well as the cost of the service line and the meter.

Centra's Primary Gas rate is subject to amendment quarterly, on the first day of February, May, August, and November. These regularly scheduled quarterly Primary Gas rate reviews occur in accordance with the Board-approved Rate Setting Methodology, which is formula-driven and relies on established accounting and rate setting conventions. Quarterly Primary Gas rate setting does not involve a public hearing, reflecting the formulaic nature of the Rate Setting Methodology and furthering the objective of least-cost regulation through the deferral of a public review of rates to the annual Cost of Gas hearing or General Rate Application.

Non-Primary Gas components of Centra's rates, for all customers including those receiving natural gas through fixed-price contracts, are also periodically reviewed and approved by the Board. These non-Primary Gas rate reviews occur either through the annual Cost of Gas hearing, which also provides for the finalization of past interim quarterly Primary Gas rate changes, or in the context of a General Rate Application.

Order 42/14, dated April 23, 2014, is the most recent Order setting Centra's Primary Gas rate. Order 89/13, dated August 2, 2013 and arising out of Centra's 2013/14 General Rate Application, approved non-Primary Gas rates (Basic Monthly Charge, Supplemental Gas, Transportation, and Distribution rates).

3. Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s Application for Primary Gas Rate

On July 15, 2014 Centra applied to the Board for approval of the Primary Gas rate effective August 1, 2014. The Application was filed in accordance with the Board-approved Rate Setting Methodology. The Rate Setting Methodology determines a Primary Gas rate based on the forecast of natural gas prices and includes several factors that reflect the costs Centra incurs in providing Primary Gas to its customers.

Centra's Primary Gas rate is based on futures prices at the AECO trading hub in Alberta. Table 1 reflects the 12 month futures price strip for natural gas taken by Centra on July 2, 2014 and used in the calculation of the August 1, 2014 Primary Gas rate. The futures strip prices for January and April 2014 from previous quarterly rate applications are also shown in Table 1. As can be seen from the table, the July 2014 futures prices have slightly decreased compared to the April futures prices.

Table 1: AECO Futures Price (Cdn\$/GJ)

	Aug/14	Sep/14	Oct/14	Nov/14	Dec/14	Jan/15	Feb/15	Mar/15	Apr/15	May/15	Jun/15	Jul/15
Jan Strip	3.7525	3.750	3.790	3.8425	3.9375	3.970	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apr Strip	4.2850	4.3125	4.3725	4.4850	4.5400	4.5900	4.5775	4.5375	3.7250	-	-	-
Jul Strip	4.1759	4.1450	4.1925	4.2225	4.3000	4.3550	4.3450	4.2650	3.6500	3.6300	3.6025	3.6225

Table 2 summarizes Centra's Application for quarterly Primary Gas rates effective August 1, 2014. The table shows Primary Gas costs and rate calculations for the last year. In calculating Primary Gas rates, Centra used the Board-approved Rate Setting Methodology.

Table 2: Current and Historical Primary Gas Rate Calculations

	Component	Costs and Proposed Rates Aug 1/13	Costs and Proposed Rates Nov 1/13	Costs and Proposed Rates Feb 1/14	Costs and Proposed Rates May 1/14	Costs and Proposed Rates August 1/14
1	Date of Forward Price Strip	July 2, 2013	October 1, 2013	January 6, 2014	April 1, 2014	July 2, 2014
2	12 Month Forward Price per GJ	\$3.277	\$3.353	\$3.926	\$4.493	\$4.137
3	¹ Cost of Gas drawn from Storage	\$2.813	\$2.884	\$2.87	\$2.87	\$2.87
4	Weighted Primary Gas Cost (mix of Gas Supply & Storage Gas costs)	\$3.180	\$3.255	\$3.699	\$4.144	\$3.865
5	Rate per Cubic Metre	\$0.1202	\$0.1230	\$0.1398	\$0.1566	\$0.1461
6	² Base Primary Rate, adding Fuel and Overhead cost component per cubic metre	\$0.12178	\$0.12457	\$0.14187	\$0.1588	\$0.1482
7	Plus (Less) Rate Rider per cubic metre	(\$0.0126)	(\$0.0104)	(\$0.0037)	(\$0.0021)	\$0.0069
8	Total Billed Rate (\$/m ³)	\$0.1092	\$0.1142	\$0.1382	\$0.1567	\$0.1551

Notes:

1. The most recent cost of gas drawn from storage reflects the actual cost of gas in storage as of October 31, 2013 following the April to October 2013 injection season.
2. Compressor fuel costs are \$0.0012/m³ and overhead costs are \$0.00087/m³.

AECO futures market prices, shown in Table 1, are weighted according to the forecasted volumes Centra expects to purchase each month that flow directly to the Manitoba load. This weighted price is the 12 Month Forward Price per Gigajoule shown in row 2 of Table 2 which also includes the costs to deliver the gas from the AECO hub to Centra's receipt point at Empress, Alberta.

The 12 Month Forward Price is then weighted for the average cost of gas of volumes that Centra withdraws from its storage facility, and is shown in row 4 of Table 2 as the Weighted Primary Gas Cost (mix of Gas Supply & Storage Gas costs). The Weighted Primary Gas Cost per Gigajoule is then converted to units of dollars per cubic metre ($\$/m^3$) and is shown in row 5 of Table 2.

Centra incurs compressor fuel costs which relate to fuel used by pipeline compressors in order to transport gas from Alberta to Manitoba. Centra also incurs overhead costs in the procurement and administration of Primary Gas supplies. The compressor fuel costs and overhead costs are added to the Weighted Primary Gas Cost to determine the Primary Gas Base Rate which is shown in row 6 of Table 2.

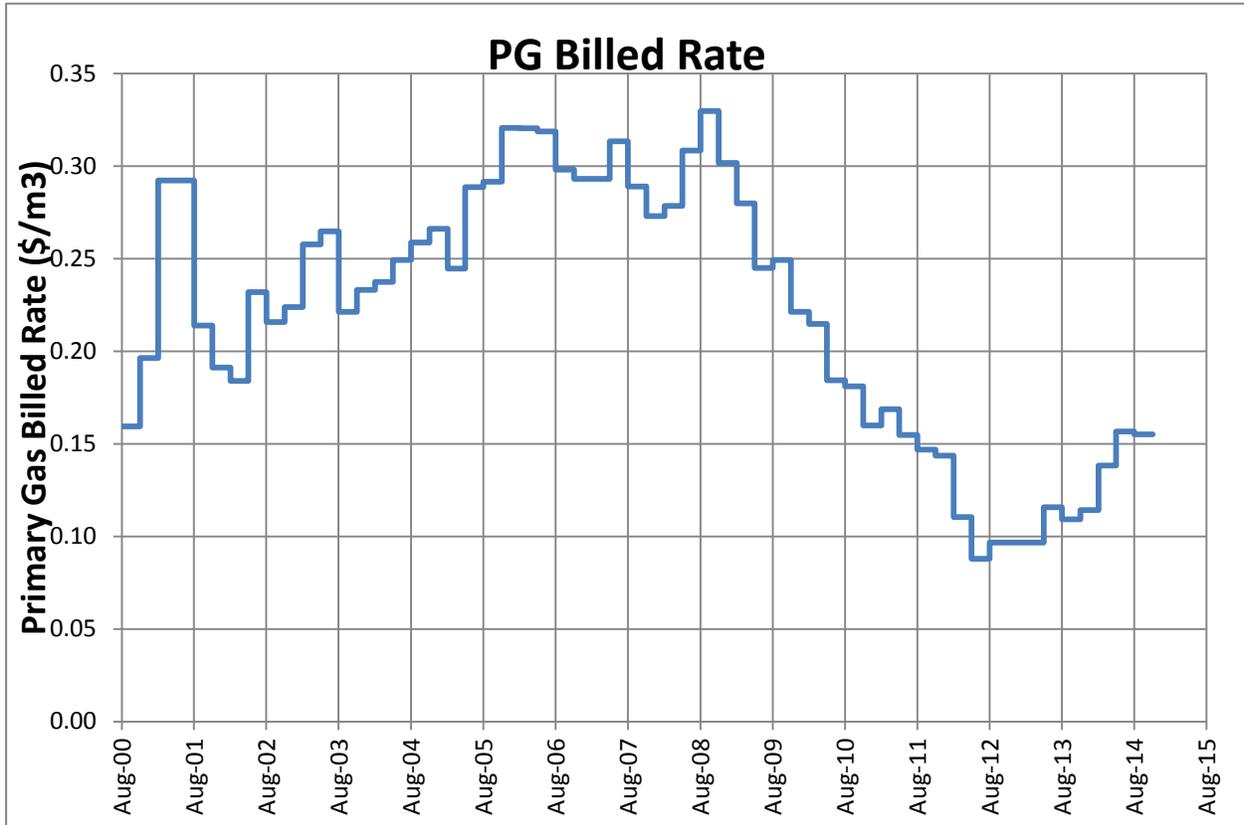
Centra tracks differences between the previously approved Primary Gas rate (and its underlying gas costs) and the actual cost of purchases it incurs. The previously approved Primary Gas rate is based on a forecast of natural gas market prices, and the actual prices Centra pays usually differ from that forecast. These differences are tracked in a Purchased Gas Variance Account. When the actual cost of gas is greater than was forecasted, a positive balance accrues in the Purchased Gas Variance Account which is then collected from customers. When the actual cost of gas is less than was forecasted, a negative balance accrues in the Purchased Gas Variance Account and this is refunded to customers. The Primary Gas rate rider is used to account for these differences between forecasted and actual costs of Primary Gas.

The Primary Gas rate rider recovers from or repays to customers the balance in the Purchased Gas Variance Account, with interest. Utilization of the Purchased Gas Variance Account and rate rider ensures that the cost of gas is charged to customers with no mark-up or discount. The Primary Gas rate rider is determined by dividing the accumulated balance in the Purchased Gas Variance Account by the volumes Centra forecasts to flow in the upcoming twelve months, and is shown in row 7 of Table 2. If the Purchased Gas Variance Account balance is not brought to zero with the rate rider, the remaining balance will be included in the calculation of future rate riders.

The Primary Gas rate rider is combined with the Primary Gas Base Rate to arrive at the Primary Gas Billed Rate, as shown in row 8 of Table 2, and this is the rate that Centra uses to calculate the bills of its Primary Gas customers.

The forecasted Purchased Gas Variance Account balance for July 31, 2014 is \$7.3 million owed to Centra by customers; this balance will be collected from customers by way of a rate rider of \$0.0069/m³. The rate rider increases the Primary Gas Base Rate of \$0.1482/m³ resulting in a Primary Gas Billed Rate of \$0.1551/m³.

The following chart graphically shows the Primary Gas Billed Rate from August 1, 2000 up to and including the proposed August 1, 2014 rate.



4. Removal of Non-Primary Gas Rate Riders

Centra's rates are based on a forecast of the costs it expects to incur. Rate riders recover from or refund to customers differences that arise between forecasted costs and actual costs, with interest. After the conclusion of the gas year (ending October 31), new non-Primary Gas rate riders are set for the upcoming 12 month period to address the balances in the non-Primary Purchased Gas Variance Accounts.

On August 2, 2013, in its Order 89/13, the Board approved Transportation (to Centra) and Distribution (to Customers) rate riders to be in effect for 12 months ending July 31, 2014. These rate riders were recovering or refunding the balances in Centra's non-Primary gas deferral accounts, depending on the customer class, from previous gas years. The gas year runs from November 1 to October 31 of the following calendar year. The rate riders reflected in current rates are refunding to or collecting from customers balances in the Purchased Gas Variance Accounts for the gas years ending October 31, 2010 and October 31, 2011.

In compliance with Order 89/13, Centra proposes to eliminate the rate riders on its Transportation and Distribution rates on August 1, coincident with the Primary Gas rate change. The Transportation and Distribution billed rates will thus be equal to the base rates.

Centra is not proposing new rate riders at this time, so there are no new rate riders to take the place of the expiring rate riders. Centra has indicated to the Board that it will be proposing new non-Primary Gas rate riders to take effect November 1, 2014. These new rate riders will address the balances accrued in the non-Primary Gas Purchased Gas Variance Accounts for the gas years ending October 31, 2013 and October 31, 2014.

Removal of the rate riders approved by Order 89/13 will result in a range of bill impacts that vary with each customer class.

5. Customer Impact

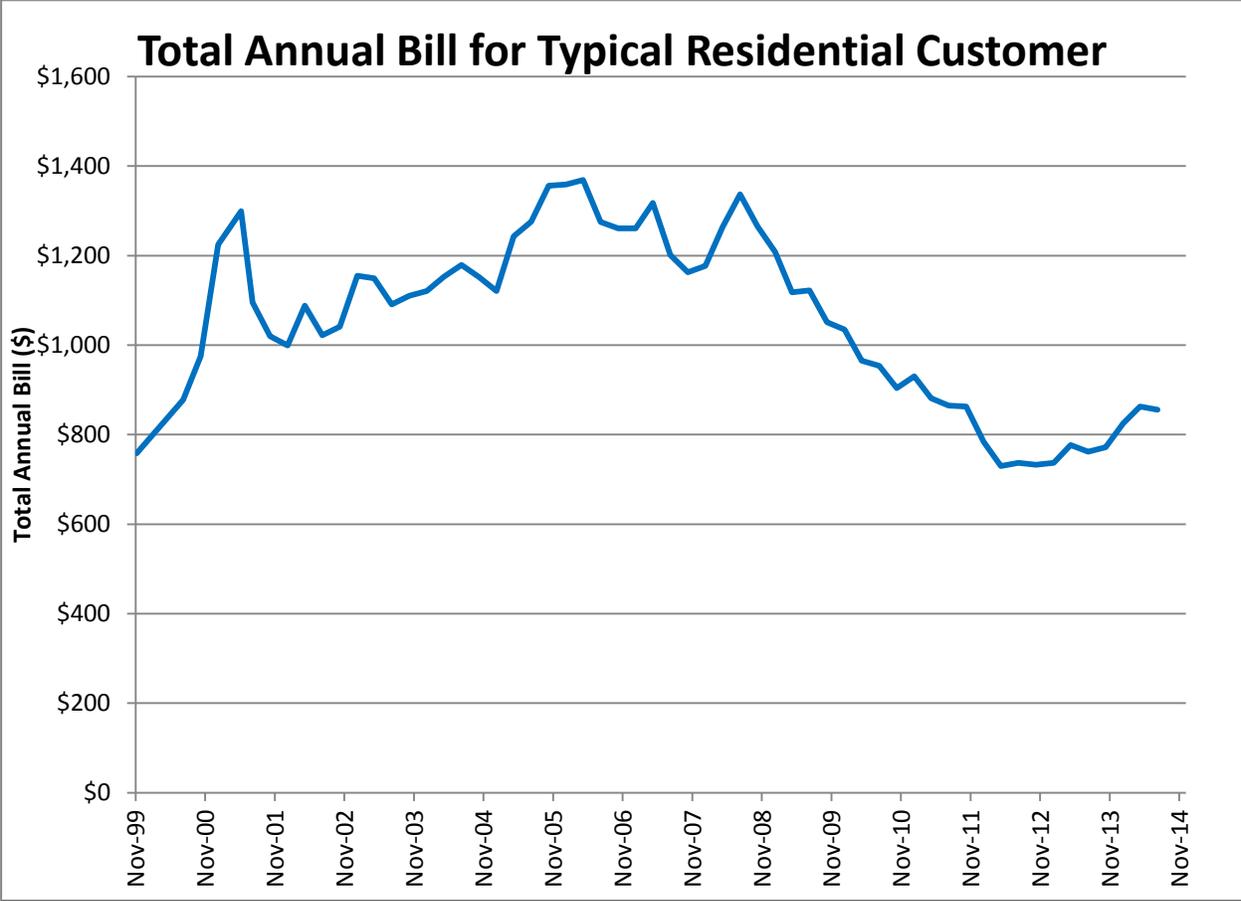
The annualized bill impacts effective August 1, 2014 on the various customer classes resulting from the change in the Primary Gas rate and the removal of rate riders are as follows:

Customer Class	Annualized Rate Increase (Illustrative)
Small General Service	(0.6%) - (1.0%)
Large General Service	(1.0%) - (1.3%)
High Volume Firm	(2.0%) - 3.0%
Mainline	1.6% - 3.8%
Interruptible	0.6% - 2.9%

For the change in Primary Gas rates only, the projected annualized bill impact for a typical residential customer, based on average annual consumption of 2,374 m³ of gas, is a decrease of \$3/year or 0.4% from May 1, 2014 rates.

For the change in Primary Gas rates plus the removal of rate riders on the Transportation and Distribution rates, the projected annualized bill impact for a typical residential customer, based on average annual consumption of 2,374 m³ of gas, is a decrease of \$7/year or 0.8% from May 1, 2014 rates.

A graph of the historical annual bill for typical residential customers as a result of all of Centra's rate changes, including the removal of rate riders, is shown below:



6. Board Findings

Approval

As Centra's July 15, 2014 Application properly reflects the Board-approved Rate Setting Methodology, the Board will approve Centra's Application to amend the Primary Gas rate. The Primary Gas rate will decrease to \$0.1551/m³ effective August 1, 2014.

In its Order 89/13, the Board approved Transportation and Distribution rate riders to be in effect for 12 months ending July 31, 2014. As this 12 month period has expired, the Board approves the Transportation and Distribution rates as set out in the Schedule of Rates in Appendix "A".

Primary Gas rate changes affect only those customers receiving quarterly-priced Primary Gas from Centra. Customers on fixed-price contracts with either gas marketers or Centra are not affected. The next review of the Primary Gas rate will take place as of November 1, 2014.

Notification

Centra is to advise its customers of the change in the Primary Gas rate.

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.

7. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Schedules of Rates attached to this Order as Appendix "A", effective for all gas consumed on and after August 1, 2014, BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROVED on an interim basis.
2. This Interim Order shall be in effect until confirmed or otherwise dealt with by a further Order of the Board.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"Régis Gosselin, B ès Arts, MBA, CGA"
Chair

"Kurt Simonsen, P.Eng"
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 85/14
issued by the Public Utilities Board

Acting Secretary

CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC.

Appendix A- Schedule of Sales and Transportation Services and Rates

Proposed Rates Aug 1, 2014

Attachment 1

Page 1 of 4

**CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC
FIRM SALES AND DELIVERY SERVICES
RATES SCHEDULES (BASE RATES ONLY - NO RIDERS)**

1	Territory:	Entire natural gas service area of Company, including all zones
2		
3	Availability:	
4	SGC:	For gas supplied through one domestic-sized meter.
5	LGC:	For gas delivered through one meter at annual volumes less than 680,000 m ³
6	HVF:	For gas delivered through one meter at annual volumes greater than 680,000 m ³
7	CO-OP:	For gas delivered to natural gas distribution cooperatives
8	MLC:	For gas delivered through one meter to customers served from the Transmission system
9	Special Contract:	For gas delivered under the terms of a Special Contract with the Company
10	Power Station:	For gas delivered under the terms of a Special Contract with the Company
11		

12	Rates:	Distribution to Customers				
		Transportation to Centra	Sales Service	T-Service	Primary Gas Supply	Supplemental Gas Supply¹
13						
14	Basic Monthly Charge: (\$/month)					
15	Small General Class (SGC)	N/A	\$14.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	Large General Class (LGC)	N/A	\$77.00	\$77.00	N/A	N/A
17	High Volume Firm (HVF)	N/A	\$1,221.42	\$1,221.42	N/A	N/A
18	Cooperative (CO-OP)	N/A	\$318.21	\$318.21	N/A	N/A
19	Main Line Class (MLC)	N/A	\$1,247.13	\$1,247.13	N/A	N/A
20	Special Contract	N/A	N/A	\$117,970.11	N/A	N/A
21	Power Station	N/A	N/A	\$8,026.07	N/A	N/A
22						
23	Monthly Demand Charge (\$/m³/month)					
24	High Volume Firm Class (HVF)	\$0.2386	\$0.1666	\$0.1666	N/A	N/A
25	Cooperative (CO-OP)	\$0.3702	\$0.1310	\$0.1310	N/A	N/A
26	Main Line Class (MLC)	\$0.3782	\$0.1818	\$0.1818	N/A	N/A
27	Special Contract	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
28	Power Station	N/A	N/A	\$0.0045	N/A	N/A
29						
30	Commodity Volumetric Charge: (\$/m³)					
31	Small General Class (SGC)	\$0.0398	\$0.0943	N/A	\$0.1482	\$0.1605
32	Large General Class (LGC)	\$0.0390	\$0.0416	N/A	\$0.1482	\$0.1605
33	High Volume Firm (HVF)	\$0.0156	\$0.0094	\$0.0094	\$0.1482	\$0.1605
34	Cooperative (CO-OP)	\$0.0045	\$0.0001	\$0.0001	\$0.1482	\$0.1605
35	Main Line Class (MLC)	\$0.0049	\$0.0045	\$0.0045	\$0.1482	\$0.1605
36	Special Contract	N/A	N/A	\$0.0001	N/A	N/A
37	Power Station	N/A	N/A	\$0.0080	N/A	N/A
38						

¹ Supplemental Gas is mandatory for all Sales and Western T-Service Customers.

39 **Minimum Monthly Bill:** Equal to the Basic Monthly Charge as described above, plus Demand Charge as appropriate.

40 **Effective:** Rates to be charged for all billings based on gas consumed on and after Aug 1, 2014

**Approved by Board Order: 85/14
Effective from: Aug 1, 2014
Date Implemented: Aug 1, 2014**

**Supersedes Board Order: 42/14
Supersedes: May 1, 2014 Rates**

CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC
INTERRUPTIBLE SALES AND DELIVERY SERVICES
RATES SCHEDULES (BASE RATES ONLY - NO RIDERS)

1	Territory:	Entire natural gas service area of Company, including all zones				
2						
3	Availability:	For any consumer at one location whose annual natural gas requirements equal or exceed 680,000 m ³ and who contracts for such service for a minimum of one year, or who received Interruptible Service continuously since December 31, 1996. Service under this rate shall be limited to the extent that the Company considers it has available natural gas supplies and/or capacity to provide delivery service.				
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9	Rates:	Distribution to Customers				
		Transportation to Centra	Sales Service		T-Service	Supplemental Gas Supply¹
			Primary Gas Supply			
10						
11	Basic Monthly Charge: (\$/month)					
12	Interruptible Service	N/A	\$1,254.45	\$1,254.45	N/A	N/A
13	Mainline Interruptible (with firm delivery)	N/A	\$1,247.13	\$1,247.13	N/A	N/A
14						
15	Monthly Demand Charge (\$/m³/month)					
16	Interruptible Service	\$0.1122	\$0.0851	\$0.0851	N/A	N/A
17	Mainline Interruptible (with firm delivery)	\$0.1726	\$0.1818	\$0.1818	N/A	N/A
18						
19	Commodity Volumetric Charge: (\$/m³)					
20	Interruptible Service	\$0.0095	\$0.0071	\$0.0071	\$0.1482	\$0.1710
21	Mainline Interruptible (with firm delivery)	\$0.0050	\$0.0045	\$0.0045	\$0.1482	\$0.1710
22						
23	Alternate Supply Service:			Negotiated		
24	Gas Supply (Interruptible Sales and Mainline Interruptible)			Cost of Gas		
25	Delivery - Interruptible Class			\$0.0099		
26	Delivery - Mainline Interruptible Class			\$0.0105		
27						
28	¹ Supplemental Gas is mandatory for all Sales and Western T-Service Customers.					
29						
30	Minimum Monthly Bill:	Equal to Basic Monthly Charge as described above, plus Demand charges as appropriate.				
31						
32	Effective:	Rates to be charged for all billings based on gas consumed on and after Aug 1, 2014				
33						

CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC.

Appendix A- Schedule of Sales and Transportation Services and Rates

Proposed Rates Aug 1, 2014

Attachment 1

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6	HVF:	For gas delivered to natural gas distribution cooperatives
7	CO-OP:	For gas delivered through one meter at annual volumes greater than 680,000 m ³
8	MLC:	For gas delivered through one meter to customers served from the Transmission system
9	Special Contract:	For gas delivered under the terms of a Special Contract with the Company
10	Power Station:	For gas delivered under the terms of a Special Contract with the Company
11		

12	Rates:	Distribution to Customers			
		Transportation to Centra	Sales Service	T-Service	Supplemental Gas Supply¹
13					
14	Basic Monthly Charge: (\$/month)				
15	Small General Class (SGC)	N/A	\$14.00	N/A	N/A
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23	Monthly Demand Charge (\$/m³/month)				
24	High Volume Firm Class (HVF)	\$0.2386	\$0.1666	\$0.1666	N/A
25	Cooperative (CO-OP)	\$0.3702	\$0.1310	\$0.1310	N/A
26	Main Line Class (MLC)	\$0.3782	\$0.1818	\$0.1818	N/A
27	Special Contract	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
28	Power Station	N/A	N/A	\$0.0045	N/A
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30	Commodity Volumetric Charge: (\$/m³)				
31	Small General Class (SGC)	\$0.0398	\$0.0943	N/A	\$0.1551
32	Large General Class (LGC)	\$0.0390	\$0.0416	N/A	\$0.1551
33	High Volume Firm (HVF)	\$0.0156	\$0.0094	\$0.0094	\$0.1551
34	Cooperative (CO-OP)	\$0.0045	\$0.0001	\$0.0001	\$0.1551
35	Main Line Class (MLC)	\$0.0049	\$0.0045	\$0.0045	\$0.1551
36	Special Contract	N/A	N/A	\$0.0001	N/A
37	Power Station	N/A	N/A	\$0.0080	N/A
38					

¹ Supplemental Gas is mandatory for all Sales and Western T-Service Customers.

42

43 **Minimum Monthly Bill:** Equal to the Basic Monthly Charge as described above, plus Demand Charge as appropriate.

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45 **Effective:** Rates to be charged for all billings based on gas consumed on and after Aug 1, 2014

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Date Implemented: Aug 1, 2014

Supersedes Board Order: 42/14
Supersedes: May 1, 2014 Rates

CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC.

**Appendix A- Schedule of Sales and Transportation Services and Rates
Proposed Rates Aug 1, 2014**

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9	Rates:	Distribution to Customers				
		Transportation to Centra			Primary Gss Supply	Supplemental Gas Supply¹
10			Sales Service	T-Service		
11	Basic Monthly Charge: (\$/month)					
12	Interruptible Service	N/A	\$1,254.45	\$1,254.45	N/A	N/A
13	Mainline Interruptible (with firm delivery)	N/A	\$1,247.13	\$1,247.13	N/A	N/A
14						
15	Monthly Demand Charge (\$/m³/month)					
16	Interruptible Service	\$0.1122	\$0.0851	\$0.0851	N/A	N/A
17	Mainline Interruptible (with firm delivery)	\$0.1726	\$0.1818	\$0.1818	N/A	N/A
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19	Commodity Volumetric Charge: (\$/m³)					
20	Interruptible Service	\$0.0095	\$0.0071	\$0.0071	\$0.1551	\$0.1710
21	Mainline Interruptible (with firm delivery)	\$0.0050	\$0.0045	\$0.0045	\$0.1551	\$0.1710
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23	Alternate Supply Service:			Negotiated		
24	Gas Supply (Interruptible Sales and Mainline Interruptible)			Cost of Gas		
25	Delivery - Interruptible Class			\$0.0099		
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