

September 30, 2020

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD OF MANITOBA
400-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0C4

ATTENTION: Dr. D. Christle, Board Secretary and Executive Director

Dear Dr. Christle:

**RE: CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. ("CENTRA")
REVIEW & VARY APPLICATION – DIRECTIVE 2 OF ORDER 49/20**

On January 29, 2020, Centra filed a Review and Vary Application requesting the Public Utilities Board ("PUB") to substitute the May 1, 2020 filing date for the Cost of Service Study ("COSS") methodology review submission as required in Directive 29 of Order 152/19 for November 1, 2020.

On April 2, 2020, the PUB issued Order 49/20 granting Centra's request and due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, requested Centra to advise the PUB if the November 1, 2020 filing date could not be met.

On April 4, 2020, Manitoba Hydro advised the PUB that COVID-19 forced the corporation to re-prioritize pending work to ensure adequate resources were allocated to essential services and matters and consequently, regular gas and electric regulatory reports and submissions would be deferred during the April-June 2020 period. On April 22, 2020, the PUB acknowledged Manitoba Hydro's letter, noting that the PUB would await the filing of regular reports and submissions after the deferral period.

The re-allocation of resources across the corporation in response to COVID-19 also suspended the planned engagement of a Cost of Service consultant to assist Centra with the preparation of the COSS Methodology Review submission.

Centra has resumed some of its regular reporting to the PUB and also now intends on resuming work on the COSS Methodology Review submission, planning to re-issue the Request for Proposal for a consultant in October or November 2020. Considering the time necessary to receive and evaluate submissions, any successful proponent is likely to be selected in November or December 2020 with the consultant commencing the review of the current methodology in the January to March 2021 timeframe.

Thereafter, Centra reasonably anticipates being in a position to file its COSS Methodology

Review Submission with the PUB in September 2021 after allowing Centra sufficient time to work with the consultant to prepare the COSS Methodology Review submission, including addressing all filing requirements as identified by the PUB and articulating Centra's position and recommendations with respect to its COSS methodology. The September 2021 timing will also provide the PUB with ample opportunity to complete its examination of the processes and options to address concerns regarding the treatment of confidential information as outlined on page 5 of Order 49/20.

As such, pursuant to sections 44 and 129 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, Centra requests the PUB to review and vary Directive 2 of Order 49/20 by setting aside the filing date of November 1, 2020 for September 15, 2021.

Should you have any questions regarding the information being provided, please contact the writer at 204-360-3257 or Darryl Martin at 204-360-4487.

Yours truly,

MANITOBA HYDRO LEGAL SERVICES

Per:



Brent Czarnecki
Barrister & Solicitor

cc: Bob Peters, PUB Counsel
Dayna Steinfeld, PUB Counsel