

June 27, 2019

Mr. Brent Czarnecki  
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VIA EMAIL

- and -

Interveners of Records  
(per attached list)

Dear Parties:

**Re: Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s ("Centra" or "Utility") 2019/20 General Rate Application ("GRA") – Hearing Procedure**

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By procedural Order 24/19, the Public Utilities Board ("Board") established a timetable for the orderly exchange of evidence and the hearing of Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s ("Centra") 2019/20 General Rate Application ("GRA"). That Order scheduled July 17 and 18, 2019 for a possible oral *in camera* hearing on "Tab 9" Storage and Transportation issues for the Board's adjudication.

Order 24/19 also identified the weeks of August 12, 19, 26 and September 3, 2019 for a public oral evidentiary hearing for the remainder of the GRA issues, with dates and days of the week to be finalized following a second pre-hearing conference held for the purpose of identifying issues, if any, to be the subject of oral evidence.

Following Centra's filing of responses to first and second round Information Requests, some Interveners filed evidence of Intervener-retained experts, including the Consumer's Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. ("CAC) filing of the confidential evidence of Mr. Rick DeWolf on the Tab 9 issues. Further to the schedule set in Order 24/19, Information Requests on Intervener evidence are due to be filed on or by July 5, 2019.

Since the Board's issuance of Order 24/19, Centra has advised through its counsel that, from the perspective of Centra based on the record as currently filed, the underlying facts do not appear to be in dispute such that written evidence by Interveners and Centra provide a sufficient hearing record to allow parties to advance their submissions before the Board, without requiring oral evidence. Through Board counsel, the Board has previously requested that parties provide their positions on the question of whether oral evidence is required and if so, on which issues that are in scope in the GRA hearing as well as the reasons for their positions. With the exception of limited preliminary comments from Industrial Gas Users, CAC, and Koch Fertilizer Canada, parties have not yet responded to the Board's request for positions.

### **Hearing Process for Tab 9 Issues**

The Board has determined that an oral hearing is not required for the Board's deliberation on and adjudication of the Tab 9 issues. The Board's hearing of the Tab 9 issues will be in writing. As such, the July 17 and 18, 2019 dates tentatively set for the *in camera* oral hearing on Tab 9 issues will not be required. Parties are required to file written submissions on the Tab 9 issues on or before **July 15, 2019**. As the Board has already determined that the evidence and information related to Tab 9 will be held in confidence by the Board, the written submissions will be received in confidence by the Board, with access granted only to those parties who have been granted access previously on Tab 9 issues, on the same conditions of access.

### **Identification of Issues for Oral Hearing**

The Board has decided that the second pre-hearing conference, tentatively scheduled in Order 24/19 to be held on July 17, 2019, will be held in writing to more efficiently advance the Board's determination of the GRA issues for oral evidence. In this regard, the Board notes the closeness in time of the tentative in-person pre-hearing conference and the first week scheduled as an oral hearing week. All parties and the Board will benefit from the early identification of the issues for oral evidence and the setting of the schedule for the oral evidentiary portion of the hearing, if any. Therefore, parties are not required to attend in person on July 17, 2019.

As Centra has already advanced its position that all issues can be heard by way of a written hearing, the Board will provide all other parties the opportunity to provide their positions on which, if any, issues should be the subject of oral evidence together with the reasons for such positions. Interveners are required to provide their written submissions on the following questions on or by **4:00 pm on July 5, 2019**:

1. Which issues, if any, from the Issues List attached as Appendix A to Order 24/19 should be the subject of oral evidence,
2. The reasons for the Intervener's position as to why the issues so identified should be the subject of oral evidence,

3. The Intervener's estimate of the number of hearing days required based on the Intervener's position as to the issues that the Intervener has identified as requiring oral evidence, and
4. The Intervener's position on whether arguments should be heard in writing or orally, or both.

To assist the advancement of the Board's consideration of the issues for oral evidence, the Board expects that Centra will, in advance of the deadline for Information Requests on Intervener evidence, provide to all parties an indication of the subjects or areas on which it anticipates it will pose Information Requests.

Centra's reply, if any, to the above requested written submissions from the Interveners is due to be filed on or by **4:00 pm on July 8, 2019**.

### **Conclusion**

Should any party have questions of clarification, please contact our office.

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 <http://www.pubmanitoba.ca>.

Sincerely,



Rachel McMillin  
Assistant Associate Secretary

RM/dv

cc: Paul Chard, Manitoba Hydro  
Jessica Carvel, Centra Counsel  
Shannon Gregorashuk, Manitoba Hydro  
Bob Peters/Dayna Steinfeld, Board Counsel  
Brady Ryall/Roger Cathcart, Board Advisors