



ORDER NUMBER

G-141-26

IN THE MATTER OF

the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

Big White Gas Utility Ltd.
Fiscal 2027 Interim Rate

BEFORE:

B. A. Magnan, Panel Chair
A. K. Fung, KC, Commissioner

on June 30, 2026

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On June 1, 2026, Big White Gas Utility Ltd. (BWGU) filed a request pursuant to section 58 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) seeking the British Columbia Utilities Commission's (BCUC) interim approval of amended rates, effective June 1, 2026 (Interim Rates Application);
- B. BWGU's rates include a Basic Charge per month, a Development Cost Charge (DCC) per service factor, and a Consumption Charge billed per litre of metered consumption, which is the sum of a fixed amount per litre (Delivery Charge) and the bulk market price per litre;
- C. Specifically, BWGU is seeking approval, effective June 1, 2026, on an interim, refundable or recoverable basis to:
 - i. Increase its Basic Charge for residential customers from \$10.00/month to \$18.64/month.
 - ii. Increase its Basic Charge for commercial customers from \$45.00/month to \$83.88/month.
 - iii. Increase the Delivery Charge component of its Consumption Charge for all customers from \$0.110/litre to \$0.205/litre.
- D. On June 11, 2026 and June 22, 2026, BWGU responded to Staff Questions No. 1 and No. 2; and
- E. The BCUC has reviewed the Interim Rates Application and finds that the following determinations are warranted.

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to sections 59 to 61 and 90 of the UCA, and for the reasons outlined in the decision accompanying this order, the BCUC orders as follows:

1. BWGU is approved to charge the following rates on an interim basis, effective June 1, 2026:
 - i. Basic Charge of \$18.64/month for residential customers;
 - ii. Basic Charge of \$83.88/month for commercial customers;
 - iii. Consumption Charge for all customers, including the Delivery Charge of \$0.205/litre; and
 - iv. DCC of \$260.00/service factor.
2. BWGU is directed to file an application for permanent rates effective June 1, 2026 on or before, July 15, 2026.
3. Any differences between the approved interim rates and the permanent rates effective June 1, 2026 that will be determined by the BCUC in the forthcoming permanent rate application will be subject to refund or recovery, with interest at the average prime rate of BWGU's principal bank for its most recent year.
4. BWGU is directed to file revised tariff pages with the BCUC for endorsement within 15 days of this order, reflecting the determinations in the decision accompanying this order.
5. BWGU is directed to include a notice of the approved interim rates with the next bill for each customer.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 30th day of June 2026.

BY ORDER

Electronically signed by Bernard Magnan

B. A. Magnan
Commissioner

Big White Gas Utility Ltd.
Fiscal 2027 Interim Rate

DECISION

On June 1, 2026, Big White Gas Utility Ltd. (BWGU) filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) an application pursuant to section 58 of the *Utilities Commission Act* seeking approval of interim rates for fiscal 2027.¹ On June 11, 2026, and June 22, 2026, BWGU responded to Staff Questions No. 1 and No. 2 in respect of the application.

BWGU's rates include a Basic Charge per month, a Development Cost Charge (DCC) per service factor, and a Consumption Charge billed per litre of metered consumption, which is the sum of a fixed amount per litre (Delivery Charge) and the bulk market price per litre.² Specifically, BWGU requests interim approval to apply an 86.4 percent increase to its Basic Charge and Delivery Charge effective June 1, 2026. BWGU has not applied for interim approval of the DCC of \$260.00/service factor in the filing of its initial application.³

BWGU submits that its rates have not increased since the 1990s and that it has experienced significant cost increases over the past several years, notably in wage expenses due to the increased complexity of operations in a remote, high-cost service area. As a result, BWGU has experienced financial losses over the past several years and the requested rate increase is required to address a significant, forecast revenue shortfall.

BWGU is seeking approval effective June 1, 2026, on an interim, refundable or recoverable basis to:⁴

- i. Increase its Basic Charge for residential customers from \$10.00/month to \$18.64/month.
- ii. Increase its Basic Charge for commercial customers from \$45.00/month to \$83.88/month.
- iii. Increase the Delivery Charge component of its Consumption Charge for all customers from \$0.110/litre to \$0.205/litre.

In response to BCUC Staff Questions No. 2, BWGU filed an updated gas tariff which includes a proposed revised rate schedule, with updates to both the Basic Charge and the Consumption Charge, for the period of 2026 to 2030.⁵

BWGU acknowledges the significance of the proposed rate increases but states that the overall customer bill impact is moderated, given that the majority of a customer's bill is comprised of the flow-through commodity charges.⁶ According to BWGU, the overall bill impact for a typical residential and commercial customer based on

¹ Exhibit B-1, p. 1.

² On page 2 of Exhibit B-1, BWGU submits its rates are made up of three components: a Basic Charge, a Commodity Charge, and a Consumption Charge. The Panel notes that there is no separate commodity charge listed in Big White's tariff but understands that by "Commodity Charge", Big White means the bulk market price per litre included in the Consumption Charge as outlined on page 17 of the tariff.

³ Exhibit B-3, p. 1.

⁴ Exhibit B-1, p. 3.

⁵ Exhibit B-3, Attachment: BWGU Gas Tariff.

⁶ Exhibit B-1, p. 3.

their January 2026 bill is an increase of 6.7 to 14.5 percent,⁷ but actual customer impacts will vary depending on seasonal consumption and individual usage.⁸

BWGU intends to file a permanent rate application as soon as possible, which will be for a new five-year period beginning in fiscal 2027⁹ and to include a detailed evaluation of the projects, costs, and allocations for the DCC.¹⁰

Panel Determination

The Panel approves BWGU to charge the following rates on an interim basis, effective June 1, 2026:

- i. Basic Charge of \$18.64/month for residential customers;**
- ii. Basic Charge of \$83.88/month for commercial customers;**
- iii. Consumption Charge for all customers, including the Delivery Charge of \$0.205/litre; and**
- iv. DCC of \$260.00/service factor.**

The Panel recognizes that the magnitude of the requested increase of 86.4 percent to BWGU's rates is substantial. However, the Panel finds that BWGU has demonstrated a sufficient basis for the rate increases on an interim basis. Specifically, BWGU has not increased its Basic Charge or the Delivery Charge component of its Consumption Charge for an extended period and the utility has experienced cost increases and sustained losses over multiple fiscal years, resulting in a significant forecast revenue shortfall.

The Panel notes BWGU's estimate that for a typical customer's January 2026 bill, the impact of the proposed rate increases would range from approximately 6.7 to 14.7 percent, inclusive of commodity charges. The Panel acknowledges that the bill impact will vary seasonally and based on customer usage.

This approval is made on an interim basis only and BWGU's permanent rates will be set by the BCUC at a later date. To facilitate a timely review of permanent rates, **the Panel directs BWGU to file an application for permanent rates effective June 1, 2026 on or before, July 15, 2026. Any differences between the approved interim rates and the permanent rates effective June 1, 2026 that will be determined by the BCUC in the forthcoming permanent rate application will be subject to refund or recovery, with interest at the average prime rate of BWGU's principal bank for its most recent year.**

In addition, the Panel notes that the revised tariff pages filed in response to Staff Questions No. 2 include rates for 2026 to 2030; however, the Panel's approval of interim rates in this decision is limited to the fiscal 2027 rates, effective June 1, 2026. Accordingly, **the Panel directs BWGU to file revised tariff pages with the BCUC for endorsement within 15 days of the date of the order accompanying this decision, removing all rate schedules pertaining to years other than fiscal 2027, so that the tariff reflects only the approved interim rates.**

⁷ Exhibit B-3, BCUC Staff Question 2.1.

⁸ Exhibit B-2, BCUC Staff Question 1.2.

⁹ Exhibit B-1, p. 4.

¹⁰ Exhibit B-3, BCUC Staff Question 2.1.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 30th day of June 2026.

Electronically signed by Bernard Magnan

B. A. Magnan
Panel Chair

Electronically signed by Anna Fung

A. K. Fung, KC
Commissioner