Competition Tribunal



Tribunal de la Concurrence

CT - 98 / 02 - doc # 7

IN THE MATTER of the *Competition Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-34, and the *Competition Tribunal Rules*, SOR/94-290, as amended;

AND IN THE MATTER of an inquiry pursuant to subsection 10(1)(b) of the *Competition Act* relating to the proposed acquisition of ICG Propane Inc. by Superior Propane Inc.;

AND IN THE MATTER of an application by the Director of Investigation and Research for an interim order pursuant to section 100 of the *Competition Act*.

BETWEEN:

The Director of Investigation and Research

Applicant



Superior Propane Inc.
Petro-Canada Inc.
The Chancellor Holdings Corporation
ICG Propane Inc.

Respondents



Date of Hearing:

December 4-6, 1998

Presiding Member:

The Honourable Mr. Justice Marshall Rothstein

Counsel for the Applicant:

The Director of Investigation and Research

William J. Miller Josephine A.L. Palumbo

Counsel for the Respondents:

Superior Propane Inc.

Neil Finkelstein Milos Barutciski Melanie L. Aitken Russell P. Cohen

Petro-Canada Inc.
The Chancellor Holdings Corporation ICG Propane Inc.

Randal T. Hughes

COMPETITION TRIBUNAL

REASONS AND ORDER REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF PORTIONS OF THE EXAMINATION OF ANDREW WISWELL

The Director of Investigation and Research

v.

Superior Propane Inc. et al.

[1] In this application under section 100 of the Competition Act, the Director seeks to

introduce excerpts of the examination taken pursuant to section 11 of the Competition Act of

Andrew Wiswell, Chief Executive Officer of ICG Propane Inc. The Director does so in an effort,

as I understand it, to be responsive to the Tribunal's questions relating to the relevant product

market. The Director says that the evidence was taken under oath, and introducing it in these

proceedings would be like reading in evidence from an examination for discovery at a trial. The

respondents object to the introduction of this evidence on the grounds that it was not included in

the material in support of the Director's application under section 100 and that the evidence was

to be treated in confidence because of its competitively sensitive nature. Paragraph 23(1)(a) of

the Competition Tribunal Rules states:

An application by the Director for an interim order under subsection 100(1) or section 104 of the Act shall be made by filing, in addition to a notice of application that satisfies the requirements of section 3,

an affidavit setting out the facts on which the application is based.

[2] The Director concedes that the Wiswell examination is not referred to in the affidavit

supporting the application. This is an application for an interim order, and the rules provide the

basis upon which the evidence on which the application is to be decided is to be submitted.

While the evidence of Mr. Wiswell was taken under oath and while it may well be analogous to

an examination for discovery (which I do not decide), this is not the hearing on the merits. On

this application the Tribunal is confined to the affidavit evidence submitted by the Director and

by the respondents.

[3] FOR THESE REASONS, THE TRIBUNAL ORDERS THAT the respondents' objection

is sustained and excerpts of the Wiswell examination will not be taken into evidence.

DATED at Ottawa this 5th day of December, 1998.

SIGNED on behalf of the Tribunal by the presiding judicial member.

(s) Marshall Rothstein Marshall Rothstein