

protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-31479 Filed 12-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP96-492-002, et al.]

**CNG Transmission Corporation, et al.;
Natural Gas Certificate Filings**

December 4, 1996.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. CNG Transmission Corporation

[Docket No. CP96-492-002]

Take notice that on November 26, 1996, CNG Transmission Corporation (CNG), 445 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301, filed in Docket No. CP96-492-001, an amendment to its pending application in Docket No. CP96-492-000 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, to construct and operate facilities for the transportation and storage of natural gas on a firm basis. Take notice also that on October 30, 1996, CNG filed a supplement to its pending application in Docket No. CP96-492-000 requesting authorization for the conversion and operation of existing salt caverns and the construction and operation of new salt caverns for the storage of natural gas in interstate commerce at the Bath Petroleum Storage Inc. (Bath Petroleum) site in Steuben County, New York. CNG's proposals are more fully set forth in the amendment and supplement which are on file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) and open to public inspection.

In its supplement, CNG requests authorization for Bath Petroleum to convert and operate existing salt caverns (well numbers 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7) at the Bath Petroleum site and lease storage capacity to CNG for natural gas storage in 1997. CNG also seeks authorization for Bath Petroleum to construct and operate well Numbers 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, and to lease storage capacity in these caverns to CNG for natural gas storage after 1998.

CNG's amendment reflects a change in the pipe diameter of the TL-504 pipeline, changes in the rates associated with this project, a change in the well numbers to be designated for natural gas

storage, and requests appropriate authorization for additional brine disposal wells associated with the development of salt covers for natural gas storage.

Comment date: December 26, 1996, in accordance with the first paragraph of Standard Paragraph F at the end of this notice.

2. Northern Natural Gas Company

[Docket No. CP97-121-000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1996, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, filed in Docket No. CP97-121-000, an abbreviated application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations, for permission and approval to abandon the Big Lake Compressor Station located in Regan County, Texas, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northern states that due to changes in operating conditions on the Northern system, the proposed abandonment of natural gas compression facilities at the Big Lake Compressor Station will not adversely affect Northern's ability to meet current service obligations. Moreover, Northern says the proposed abandonment of facilities will not result in the abandonment of service to any of Northern's existing shippers.

Comment date: December 26, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph F at the end of this notice.

3. NorAm Gas Transmission Company

[Docket No. CP97-122-000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1996, NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NGT), 525 Milam, Shreveport, Louisiana 71151 filed in Docket No. CP97-122-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.211) for approval and permission to construct and operate a delivery tap for ARKLA, a distribution division of NorAm Energy Corporation (ARKLA), under the blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-384-000, as amended in Docket No. CP82-384-001, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

NGT states that it proposes to construct and operate a new two-inch delivery tap on NGT's Line JM-23 in Crittenden County, Arkansas to provide service to ARKLA. NGT further states

that ARKLA will construct the four-inch meter station and convey it to NGT. NGT indicates that it will own and operate the tap, first-cut regulator and meter. NGT asserts that the estimated volumes to be delivered through the above facilities are 5,760 MMBtu annually and 10 MMBtu on a peak day. NGT also asserts that these facilities will be constructed at a cost of \$2,435 of which ARKLA will reimburse NGT \$1,538.

Comment date: January 21, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph G at the end of this notice.

4. Northern Natural Gas Company

[Docket No. CP97-125-000]

Take notice that on November 26, 1996, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed in Docket No. CP97-125-000 a request pursuant Sections 157.205(b) and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205(b) and 157.212) to install and operate a new delivery point, located in Ochiltree County, Texas to accommodate interruptible natural gas deliveries to Midgard Energy Company (Midgard) under Northern's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-401-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northern states that it requests authority to install and operate the proposed delivery point to accommodate interruptible natural gas deliveries to Midgard for commercial use under Northern's currently effective throughput service agreement(s). Northern asserts that Midgard has requested the proposed delivery point to provide compressor fuel and starting gas located in Ochiltree County, Texas.

Northern states that the proposed volumes that would be delivered to Midgard at the proposed delivery point are 2,000 MMBtu on a peak day and 500,000 MMBtu on an annual basis. Northern estimates a cost of \$11,600 for installing the proposed delivery point. It is stated that Midgard would reimburse Northern for the total cost of installing the delivery point.

Comment date: January 21, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph G at the end of this notice.

5. Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation

[Docket No. CP97-127-000]

Take notice that on November 22, 1996, Columbia Gas Transmission

Corporation (Columbia), 1700 MacCorkle Avenue, S.E., Charleston, West Virginia 25325-1273, filed in Docket No. CP97-127-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for permission and approval to abandon certain certificated facilities by sale. In addition, Columbia requests an order declaring that upon and after approval for the abandonment, the subject facilities are and will be exempt from Commission jurisdiction under the Natural Gas Act as gathering facilities, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Columbia states that the sale of these certificated facilities is an integral part of Columbia's plan to sell the majority of its gathering facilities in order to expedite Columbia's full unbundling of rates and services as required under Order No. 636. Columbia states that the sale of its gathering facilities, including the certificated facilities, will allow Columbia to cease providing gathering services and to mitigate costs. Columbia further states that it intends to sell the gathering facilities (divided into eighteen designated geographic groups for descriptive purposes), located in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland. In addition, Columbia states that of the eighteen designated systems, all facilities, with the exception of a portion of the system committed for sale at net book value to Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer), will be offered for sale by public auction. Specifically, Columbia states that it proposes to abandon by sale the certificated facilities consisting of approximately 189.7 miles of various sized pipeline and the 225 horsepower McClellandtown compressor station. In addition, Columbia proposes to abandon the points of delivery as identified in Exhibit T to the application which consists of 139 town border stations and 4,081 mainline consumers. Also requested is the authorization needed to abandon five points of exchange with CNG Transmission Corporation under Columbia's Rate Schedules X-35 and X-84, all of which are served from the certificated facilities and noncertificated gathering facilities to be sold.

It is stated that the subject Docket No. CP97-127-000 is related to and is being filed concurrently with a partial settlement in Columbia's pending Section 4 rate proceeding in Docket No. RP95-408, *et al.* (Settlement), which resolves all issues related to the unbundling of gathering costs and services.

Columbia states that the certificated facilities proposed to be abandoned by

public auction and sale are currently functioning as gathering facilities and are an integral part of the geographic gathering groups to be auctioned and sold. Columbia states that the purchasing parties are generally unknown at this time. Columbia further states that Mountaineer is purchasing certain of the facilities in West Virginia, and a bid has been accepted (subject to certain contingencies) whereby Somerset Exploration Corporation will purchase certain of the facilities located in Pennsylvania. Columbia states that as a condition of the sale, Columbia will require the purchasers of the gathering facilities to continue to provide Columbia's gathering customers with gathering service on an open access, non-jurisdictional basis and to charge, during a period of up to two years, no more than the rates specified in the Settlement.

Columbia maintains that approval of this proposal will allow Columbia to focus on its primary businesses of interstate gas transportation and storage. Columbia further maintains that the auction and sale of these gathering facilities will further result, ultimately, in reduced costs for Columbia's customers through reduction in operation and maintenance costs. In addition, Columbia states that it will credit the net proceeds from the sale of the gathering facilities to reduce its customers' cost responsibility in accordance with the Settlement. Finally, as reflected in the Settlement, Columbia states that the respective purchasers of Columbia's gathering facilities will be obligated to continue to provide service to Columbia's gathering customers on an open-access basis and to charge rates not to exceed the gathering rates established by the Settlement for a period of up to two years from the date of purchase, but not beyond January 31, 2000.

Columbia advises that it has provided notice of the sale via press releases to newspapers and trade journals and has posted notice of the sale, including maps of the affected facilities, on its electronic bulletin board which is accessible through the Internet (World Wide Web) at <http://www.Columbiaenergy.com/sale>, and Columbia is now in the process of accepting and evaluating bids for the gathering systems by geographic area.

In addition, Columbia states that of the approximately 3,332 miles of pipeline being auctioned, many of the facilities were not certificated because of their location and function. Only 189.7 miles of pipeline and one of the eight compressor stations (the 225 horsepower McClellandtown

compressor station), totaling 1,317 horsepower, in the eighteen gathering groups have ever been certificated. The certificated lines and the compressor station proposed for sale are primarily functionalized on Columbia's books of account as transmission and storage facilities except for 8.3 miles of pipeline currently functionalized as gathering. However, Columbia states, that once these facilities have been sold, these lines and stations will perform a non-jurisdictional gathering function.

Comment date: December 26, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph F at the end of this notice.

6. Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America

[Docket No. CP97-132-000]

Take notice that on November 27, 1996, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural), 701 East 2nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148, filed an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations for an order granting permission and approval to abandon a firm transportation service for Chevron Chemical Company (Chevron Chemical) performed under Natural's Rate Schedule X-139, authorized in Docket No. CP85-347, as amended. The application is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Natural states that said transportation service was effected by Chevron U.S.A., Inc. (Chevron U.S.A.), a producer, tendering gas it produced in West Cameron Blocks 532, 533 and 534, offshore Louisiana for Chevron Chemical's account at existing interconnections between Chevron U.S.A. and Stingray Pipeline Company (Stingray). Pursuant to a gas transportation agreement between Natural and Chevron Chemical dated September 26, 1977 (Agreement), as amended on January 11, 1985, Natural transported through its capacity in Stingray up to 3,750 Mcf of natural gas per day for Chevron Chemical to an onshore interconnection between Natural and Stingray located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana (Holly Beach). From Holly Beach, Natural further transported the gas to an interconnection with Koch Gateway Pipeline Company at the Texaco Henry Plant in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana for ultimate delivery to Chevron Chemical.

Natural states that by a letter agreement dated November 12, 1996, Natural and Chevron Chemical agreed to terminate the Agreement, as amended, as of December 1, 1996.

Comment date: December 26, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph F at the end of this notice.

7. Questar Pipeline Company

[Docket No. CP97-133-000]

Take notice that on November 29, 1996, Questar Pipeline Company (Questar), 79 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, filed in Docket No. CP97-133-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.212 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212 and 157.216) for authorization to abandon existing metering and regulating (M&R) facilities and to install replacement M&R facilities for the purpose of increasing delivery capacity to Mountain Fuel Supply Company (MFS), Questar's local distribution company affiliate, at the existing Gookin Tap delivery point located in Sweetwater County, Wyoming, under Questar's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-491-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Questar explains that the city of Rock Springs, Wyoming is experiencing substantial growth in the vicinity of the Gookin Tap delivery point. Questar states that as a result of the continuing growth in residential hook-ups, the existing M&R facilities are too small to service the capacity demands required by the MFS distribution system. Questar explains that to continue providing reliable customer service to MFS, Questar must install replacement M&R facilities of greater capacity at the Gookin Tap delivery point to satisfy the increasing MFS customer demand.

It is stated that the existing M&R facilities, proposed to be replaced, comprise a 4-inch meter, two 1-inch regulator banks and appurtenant facilities contained in a 4-foot by 6-foot skid-mounted meter building. The replacement M&R facilities would include a 6-inch turbine meter, two 2-inch regulator banks, a filter and related valves, telemetry and station piping housed in a 6-foot by 6-foot skid-mounted meter building. In addition, Questar proposes to replace approximately 35 feet of 1-inch diameter pipeline with 2-inch diameter pipeline extending from a block valve on Questar's Jurisdictional Lateral (J.L.)

No. 4 to the Gookin Tap delivery point site. Questar states that the 35 feet of replacement pipeline will be installed within Questar's existing, previously-disturbed J.L. No. 4 right-of-way. Questar states that the estimated cost to install the replacement M&R facilities is \$35,200 and that the replacement of the Gookin Tap M&R facilities will have no effect on the existing environment.

Questar further states that the current Gookin Tap delivery point meter can deliver up to 9,000 standard cubic feet (Scf) per hour, or approximately 229 Dekatherms (Dth) per day, while the proposed replacement delivery point facilities, described above, will be capable of delivering up to 100,000 Scf per hour or approximately 2,549 Dth per day. Questar states that it has sufficient pipeline capacity to increase firm deliveries at the Gookin Tap delivery point without detriment or disadvantage to Questar's other customers.

Comment date: January 21, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph G at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraphs

F. Any person desiring to be heard or make any protest with reference to said filing should on or before the comment date file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this filing if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the

Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for the applicant to appear or be represented at the hearing.

G. Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefore, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-31452 Filed 12-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

Notice of Cases Filed With the Office of Hearings and Appeals; Week of November 11 Through November 15, 1996

During the Week of November 11 through November 15, 1996, the appeal listed in this Notice was filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Department of Energy.

Any person who will be aggrieved by the DOE action sought in this case may file written comments on the appeal within ten days of publication of this Notice or the date of receipt of actual notice, whichever occurs first. All such comments shall be filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585-0107.

Dated: December 4, 1996.

George B. Breznay,

Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals.