

proposes joint facilities from Dracut, Massachusetts to Westbrook, Maine.

The Phase I Amendment addresses the effects of the Joint Facilities Application on the cost of facilities and rates, the tariff, and the pipeline route set forth in the Phase I Application. The Phase I Amendment adopts the 64.8-mile Dracut to Wells, Maine segment of the Joint Facilities, including one lateral (the Newington Lateral) and three meter stations as the proposed Phase I Facilities.³ The Phase I Amendment also postpones the proposed in-service date of Phase I from November 1, 1997, to November 1, 1998.

Maritimes states that its revised cost, based on an allocation of its share of the Joint Facilities, is about \$79.5 million. Originally, Maritimes had proposed a 24-inch pipeline from Dracut to Wells at a cost of \$82 million and its own 30-inch pipeline from Dracut to Wells at a cost of \$103.7 million (see Docket No. CP96-178-002).

The rates proposed by Maritimes have been revised to reflect Maritimes' estimate of the allocated cost of the Joint Facilities. Maritimes says that the rates are about the same level as proposed in the Phase I Application and approved in the July 31, 1996 Preliminary Determination (PD) in this docket. The methodology used to design the rates has been revised to reflect a levelization period of 9 years rather than 7 years and to eliminate the allocation of costs to interruptible transportation. In the PD Maritimes' 365-day firm rate was approved as a recourse rate equal to \$18.25 per MMBtu, with \$1 million allocated to interruptible transportation.

Now the proposed 365-day firm transportation rate is \$18.2873 per MMBtu.⁴ Maritimes also says that in compliance with the PD it will record the various elements of its negotiated rates in the format prescribed by the Commission. Maritimes also states that minor tariff changes may be needed to coordinate matters such as measurement or quality specifications with PNGTS. To the extent necessary, such changes would be filed with the Commission. On September 30, 1996, Maritimes filed revised tariff sheets in compliance with the various directives of the July 31, 1996, PD. That filing was not noticed at that time, but parties to this proceeding may comment on it in conjunction with

their comments on the amendment in Docket No. CP96-178-003.

Maritimes requests that the Commission issue a PD on the Phase I Amendment by May 31, 1997, and a certificate for Phase I at the same time the Joint Facilities are approved.⁵

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said Amendment, or the September 30, 1996, tariff compliance filing, should, on or before April 15, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest/comment in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 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 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 the jurisdiction conferred upon the 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 Amendment if no petition 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 Amendment is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a petition 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 procedures herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Maritimes to appear or be represented at the hearing. Anyone who has already filed a motion to intervene in Docket Nos. CP96-178-000 or CP96-178-002 need not file a motion to intervene again with the Commission.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-8070 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP96-809-002]

**Maritime & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.;
Notice of Amendment**

March 25, 1997.

Take notice that on February 24, 1997, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (Maritimes), c/o M&N Management Company, 1284 Soldiers Field Road, Boston, MA 02135, a Delaware limited liability company, filed in Docket No. CP96-809-002,¹ an Amendment to its Application for Phase II of its project (Phase II Amendment) pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act. This amendment reflects the effect of the Joint Facilities Application of Maritimes and Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS), initially filed with the Commission on February 10, 1997, and completed on March 18, 1997, in Docket No. CP97-238-000 (Joint Facilities Application),² on Maritimes' September 23, 1996, Phase II Application, in Docket No. CP96-809-000.

The completion of the Joint Facilities Application, originally filed February 10, 1997, was preceded by two public conference at the Commission and four letters from the Office of Pipeline Regulation (OPR) requesting the information required to complete the filing. However, certain information which is needed to complete the processing of the Joint Facilities Application remains to be filed.³ Complete and accurate filing of that information on the schedule stated in the joint applicants' March 18, 1997, filing is essential for the expeditious processing of the Phase II applications.

The Joint Facilities Application requests authorization to construct and operate approximately 99.8 miles of jointly-owned 30-inch pipeline and appurtenant facilities to accommodate natural gas volumes that would otherwise be transported through the same area by separate pipeline facilities. The Joint Facilities Application proposes joint facilities from Dracut, Massachusetts to Westbrook, Maine.

The Phase II Amendment addresses the effects of the Joint Facilities

¹ A supplemental filing which contained a revised Maritimes *pro forma* tariff for 1998 service and 1999 service was filed on November 1, 1996, and docketed as Docket No. CP96-809-001. This supplement reflects the requirements of Order No. 587 (Gas Industry Standards Board), and conforms the Phase II tariff to tariff changes required by the July 31, 1996, Preliminary Determination for Phase I. It was not noticed at that time, but parties to this proceeding may comment on it in conjunction with their comments on the amendment in Docket No. CP96-809-002.

² See Notice of Application for Docket No. CP97-238-000 issued on March 21, 1997.

³ See the March 21, 1997, OPR Director's letter to the joint applicants.

³ The Joint Facilities Application lists certain above ground appurtenant facilities to be built by the joint applicants, while the Phase I Amendment lists similar above ground appurtenant facilities to be built by Maritimes.

⁴ Rates based on the capital costs of \$103.7 million were never filed.

⁵ A data response filed by Maritimes on March 20, 1997, asks for final action by August 1, 1997, but this contradicts the request in the Joint Facilities Application that the Commission issue a final certificate for the Joint Facilities by August 31, 1997.

Application on the cost of facilities and rates, the tariff, and the pipeline route set forth in the Phase II Application. The Phase II Amendment adopts the 35-mile Wells to Westbrook, Maine segment of the Joint Facilities, including two laterals (the Westbrook Lateral and the Haverhill Lateral) and two meter stations as the proposed Phase II Facilities. The 24-inch pipeline previously proposed in the Phase II Application from Westbrook, Maine to the U.S.-Canada border for service starting in 1999 is unchanged by the Phase II Amendment. Also unchanged is Maritimes' proposal for a 1998 Phase II interim service which will include service to the Westbrook Lateral and the Cousins Island Lateral.

Maritimes states that its revised estimated cost is about \$387 million. Originally, its Phase II cost estimate was \$404 million. The cost estimate revisions are based on an allocation of its share of the Joint Facilities costs, and the revised estimated cost of its own facilities from Westbrook to the U.S.-Canada border. The revised estimate for the Westbrook to Canada segment is based on updated facilities cost information (primarily lower estimates of labor expenses), more environmental information and analysis, and pipeline route changes. The cost for the 1998 facilities decreased from \$63 million to \$61.8 million, while the cost for the 1999 facilities decreased from \$340.9 million to \$325.5 million.

The rates proposed by Maritimes have been revised to reflect Maritimes' new cost estimates. The initial rate for Maritimes' 365-day firm transportation for Phase II service from Canada starting in 1999 is now \$15.0858 per MMBtu; previously it was \$15.7551 per MMBtu.⁴ The calculation of the revised rates and charges is included in Exhibit P to the Phase II Amendment.

Maritimes states that minor tariff changes may be needed to coordinate matters such as measurement or quality specifications with PNGTS. To the extent necessary, such changes would be filed with the Commission. Other than the changes to the proposed rates, the proposed tariff, including rate schedules, and general terms and conditions remains unchanged from the supplemental tariff filing in Docket No. CP96-809-001.

Maritimes requests that the Commission issue a Preliminary Determination on Phase II by May 31,

1997, and a final certificate for Phase II by December 17, 1997.⁵

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said Amendment, or the supplemental tariff filing in Docket No. CP96-809-001, should, on or before April 15, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 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 or 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 the jurisdiction conferred upon the 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 Amendment if no petition 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 Amendment is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a petition 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 procedures herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Maritimes to appear or be represented at the hearing. Anyone who has already filed a motion to intervene in Docket No. CP96-809-000 need not file a motion to intervene again with the Commission.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-8072 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. RP96-290-000]

Michigan Gas Storage Company; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

March 25, 1997.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding on April 3, 1997. The conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., 20426, in a conference room to be designated. The purpose of the conference is to explore the possibility of settlement of the above-referenced docket.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined in 18 CFR 385.102(b) is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, contact Russell Mamone at (202) 208-0744 or Anja Clark at (202) 208-2034.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-8010 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP96-249-004]

Portland Natural Gas Transmission System; Notice of Amendment

March 25, 1997.

Take notice that on March 18, 1997, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS), 300 Friberg Parkway, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581-5039, filed in Docket No. CP96-249-004 an amendment pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act. This amendment reflects the effect of the Joint Facilities Application of Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (Maritimes) and PNGTS, initially filed with the Commission on February 10, 1997, and completed on March 18, 1997 in Docket No. CP97-238-000 (Joint Facilities Application)¹ on PNGTS's March 14, 1996, Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in Docket No. CP96-249-000, as amended in Docket No. CP96-249-003.

Prior to the March 18, 1997 submission in the Joint Facilities Application, two public conferences at the Commission were held and four letters from the Office of Pipeline Regulation (OPR) were issued requesting the information required to

⁴ Maritimes proposes that the 1998 interim Phase II service will be at negotiated rates.

⁵ The data response filed by Maritimes on March 20, 1997, citing the December 17, 1997, date is taken to be a further amendment of Maritimes' February 24, 1997, filing wherein August 31, 1997, was cited as the date that a final certificate was required.

¹ See Notice of Application for Docket No. CP97-238-000 issued on March 21, 1997.