

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 If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of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 NGA.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-18487 Filed 7-14-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-404-001]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Tariff Filing

July 9, 1997.

Take notice that on July 2, 1997 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) tendered for filing certain revised tariff sheets to its FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1, which tariff sheets are enumerated in Appendix A attached to the filing. The proposed effective date of such tariff sheets is August 1, 1997.

Transco states that the purpose of the instant filing is to supplement Transco's Annual Great Plains Adjustment filing of June 30, 1997 in Docket No. RP97-404-000 (June 30 Filing), which filing inadvertently omitted certain tariff sheets containing the Great Plains Volumetric Surcharge (GPS). The revised tariff sheets included therein reflect the same GPS rate of 0.10¢ per dt as contained in Transco's June 30 Filing.

Transco states that copies of the instant filing are being mailed to affected customers and interested State Commissions.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-18489 Filed 7-14-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-619-000]

Viking Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

July 9, 1997.

Take notice that on July 3, 1997, Viking Gas Transmission Company (Viking), 825 Rice Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55117, filed in Docket No. CP97-619-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.212) for authorization to increase the metering capacity of an existing delivery point for transportation services for Northern States Power Company—Wisconsin (NSPW), for delivery at the Wheaton delivery point in Chippewa County, Wisconsin, under the blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-414-000,¹ pursuant to Section 7(c) 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.

Viking proposes to install an additional 6" turbine meter run, associated piping, and fittings at the Wheaton delivery point. Viking states that the proposed change is needed to provide additional metering capacity for the transportation services currently provided to NSPW under Viking's Rate Schedule FT-A, Rate Schedule AOT and Rate Schedule IT. Viking currently provides a maximum daily summertime quantity of 12,185 Dth and wintertime quantity of 37,000 Dth of firm transportation service to NSPW under Viking's Rate Schedule FT-A, pursuant to Gas Transportation Agreements dated June 1, 1994 and November 1, 1994. NSPW has requested an increase in metering capacity up to 120,000 Mcf/d at the existing Wheaton delivery point.

Viking estimates that the proposed cost to upgrade the delivery point is \$45,000 and NSPW will reimburse Viking for the cost of upgrading the delivery point.

Viking states that the delivery of NSPW's volumes will not exceed the presently authorized quantities, and the changes proposed are not prohibited by

¹ On April 6, 1989, in Docket No. CP88-679-000 the Commission authorized Viking to acquire and operate Midwestern Gas Transmission Company's (Midwestern) Northern System as Midwestern's successor. The Commission issued Midwestern blanket certificate authority for construction of facilities on September 1, 1982, in Docket No. CP82-414-000.

Viking's tariff. Viking claims that it has sufficient capacity in its system to accomplish delivery of gas to the proposed delivery point without detriment or disadvantage to any of its other customers. Viking states that there will be no impact on its peak day or average day deliveries.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after 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 therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96-655-001, et al. and CP97-291-000]

Destin Pipeline Company, L.L.C.; Southern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Destin Pipeline Project

July 9, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Destin Pipeline Company, L.L.C. and Southern Natural Gas Company in the above-referenced dockets and referred to as the Destin Pipeline Project.

The staff prepared the draft EIS to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would have limited adverse environmental impact.

The draft EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the

following facilities in the central Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi:

- A total of 213.2 miles of 36-, 30-, and 16-inch-diameter interstate pipeline, consisting of 75.6 miles offshore pipeline and 137.6 miles of onshore pipeline;
- 27,078 horsepower of new compression at two new compressor stations;
- Seven new meter stations; and
- Associated aboveground facilities, including a liquids slug catcher, an offshore gathering platform, and a related nonjurisdictional gas processing plant.

The purpose of the proposed facilities is to transport up to 1 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from the development of new offshore deepwater production areas in the central Gulf of Mexico to interconnections with six major interstate pipelines in Mississippi. The proposed facilities would provide a new natural gas transportation infrastructure that would avoid the overburdened pipeline systems in southeastern Louisiana.

The draft EIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the draft EIS are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the draft EIS have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, and parties to this proceeding who requested a copy.

Comment Procedure

Written Comments

Any person wishing to submit written comments on the draft EIS may do so. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, D.C. 20426.

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1;

- Reference Docket Nos. CP96-655-001 *et al.* and CP97-291-000; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before September 1, 1997.

Public Meetings

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the scheduled public meetings and present comments on the environmental impacts described in the draft EIS. Anyone who would like to speak at the public meetings may get on the speakers list by signing up at the public meetings. Priority will be given to persons representing groups. Transcripts will be made of the meetings.

Two public meetings to receive comments on the draft EIS of the Destin Pipeline Project will be held at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
August 6, 1997	7:00 p.m.	Moss Point Public Library, 4401 McInnis Street, Moss Point, Mississippi.
August 7, 1997	7:00 p.m.	Mississippi National Guard Armory, 38th, Highway 63, Waynesboro, Mississippi.

After the written and oral comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the draft EIS, a final EIS will be published and distributed. The final EIS will contain the staffs responses to timely comments received on the draft EIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-202-000]

USG Pipeline Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed USG Pipeline Project

July 9, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by USG Pipeline Company (USGPC) in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA addresses the potential environmental effects of construction and operation of 14.5 miles of 10-inch-diameter pipeline and appurtenant

facilities in Marion County, Tennessee and Jackson County, Alabama.

USGPC would transport up to 7,000 Dekatherms per day of natural gas to United States Gypsum Company (USGC) in Bridgeport, Alabama where USGC plans to construct and operate a gypsum wallboard manufacturing facility.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date listed below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Reference Docket No. CP97-202-000.