

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket Nos. RP98-39-001, RP98-40-002, RP98-42-001, RP98-44-001, RP98-52-002, RP98-53-002, and RP98-54-002 (Not Consolidated)]

**Northern Natural Gas Company, Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, ANR Pipeline Company, El Paso Natural Gas Company, Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc., Formerly: Williams Natural Gas Company, KN Interstate Gas Transmission Company, and Colorado Interstate Gas Company; Notice of Extension of Time**

March 6, 1998.

On February 19, 1998, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (Chevron), Texaco Natural Gas Inc. (Texaco), and Vastar Gas Marketing, Inc. (VGM) (collectively: The Parties) jointly requested rehearing of the Commission's January 28, 1998 Order Clarifying Procedures in Docket No. RP98-39-001 *et al.* (82 FERC ¶ 61,059). The parties' request includes an emergency motion calling for the Commission to, among other things, postpone the March 9, 1998 Kansas ad valorem tax refund deadline to July 9, 1998. In this regard, The Parties note that El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso), with less than three weeks before the March 9, 1998 refund deadline, revised VGM's refund amount upward from \$53,836.13 to approximately \$4.5 million.

Upon consideration, The Parties' request for an extension of the March 9, 1998 refund deadline is granted solely with respect to VGM's refund obligation to El Paso. That deadline is hereby extended to and including July 7, 1998, for VGM to make refunds to El Paso, in compliance with the Commission's September 10 and January 28, orders.

The Parties also request that the Commission either excuse operators from refunding amounts attributable to working and royalty interest owners, or provide a 2-year period, beyond March 9, 1998, for first sellers to recover those amounts from the working and royalty interest owners.

Upon consideration, ARCO, Chevron, Texaco, and VGM are granted a 6-month extension for refunding amounts billed to them by the pipelines that are attributable to royalty interest owners. The Commission's May 19, 1995 Letter Order in Docket No. GP95-6-000 (71 FERC ¶ 61,185), an earlier Kansas ad valorem tax proceeding involving Robert F. White, makes it clear that the Kansas ad valorem tax refund obligation

of each first seller is limited to the extent of its working interest, including the royalty interests attributable to its working interest. Thus, no extension is required with respect to an operator's recovery of refunds attributable to working interest owners.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2042-007]

**Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County, WA; Notice of Site Visit For Amendment of License**

March 6, 1998.

On February 18, 1997, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County, Washington, licensee, filed an application with the Commission to amend its license for the existing Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project (project). The proposed amendment would extend the limit of the upstream project boundary from River Mile (RM) 34.4 near Ruby, Washington, to the Corps of Engineers' Albeni Falls Dam at RM 90.1. The acreage added as a consequence of this modification would include approximately 492 acres of federal lands within the Kalispell Indian Reservation.

The Commission staff currently are preparing an environmental assessment of the proposed license amendment; consequently, they plan to conduct a site visit to observe project lands and facilities with representatives of the PUD. The site visit will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend the site visit. Participants will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the PUD office located at 130 North Washington Street in Newport, Washington. The licensee will provide transportation during the site visit. Participants should bring their own lunches for the day-long event.

Persons who plan to attend the site visit are requested to notify Mr. Bob Geddes of the PUD at least 48 hours prior to the site visit so that the licensee can arrange to have sufficient bus/van transportation available. His telephone number is (509) 447-9342.

For further information, please contact Patricia Weslowski at (617) 444-3330; ext. 432.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. TQ98-3-35-000]

**West Texas Gas, Inc.; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff**

March 6, 1998.

Take notice that on March 3, 1998, West Texas Gas, Inc. (WTG) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheet, to be effective April 1, 1998:

2nd Rev. Twenty-Fifth Revised Sheet No. 4

WTG states that the tariff sheet and the accompanying explanatory schedules constitute its quarterly PGA filing submitted pursuant to the purchased gas adjustment provisions of Section 19 of the General Terms and Conditions of its tariff. Because the tariff sheet reflects a reduction of \$0.1905 in its purchased gas costs, WTG requests the tariff sheet be made effective on less than 30-days notice. WTG states that copies of the filing were served upon its customers and affected state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or 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 the 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 in the Public Reference Room.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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