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*Agency Clearance Officer, Statistics and Methods Group, Energy Information Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-774-000]

#### **Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization**

September 29, 1998.

Take notice that on September 11, 1998, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-0146, filed in Docket No. CP98-679-000, a request pursuant to Section 157.205, 157.212 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211 and 157.216) for authorization to relocate various points of delivery to Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania (CPA) and to abandon 6.6 miles of 8-, 4- and 2-inch pipeline located in McKean County, Pennsylvania, under Columbia's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-76-000, pursuant to 18 CFR Part 157, Subpart F 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.

Specifically, Columbia requests that its Corwins Lane point of delivery to CPA be relocated from Columbia's 2-inch Line 4389 to its 8-inch Line 4226 right-of-way. Columbia states that it intends to relocate 145 feet of its 2-inch Line 4389 with 260 feet of 2-inch pipeline under Sections 157.212 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations. Columbia further states that regulation must be installed at the new interconnection of Columbia's 2-inch Line 4389 and 8-inch Line 422, and it is more feasible to have both the regulation and measurement at the same location.

It is further stated that Columbia's Spencer point of delivery (CPA POD 13) would be relocated from Columbia's 8-inch Line 4008 to its 8-inch Line 4226. It is stated that Line 4226 is parallel to Line 4008 and shares the same right-of-way. The replacement tap would be located approximately 5 feet from the existing tap, it is stated.

Columbia states that in addition to the relocation of the two points of delivery, Columbia intends to relocate five domestic taps to nine residences from Line 4008 to Line 4226 to allow for the partial abandonment of Line 4008. It is stated that CPA agrees to the relocation at the points of delivery.

Columbia further states that in addition to the relocations, Columbia proposes to abandon approximately 6.5 miles of 8-inch Line 4008 in two sections, 10 feet of 2-inch Line 4397, and 61 feet of 4-inch Line 4168, all located in McKean County, Pennsylvania. Columbia states that there are no shippers or points of delivery associated with the 10 feet of 2-inch Line 4397 pipeline. It is stated that Line 4008 consists of 8-inch coupled pipe in need of replacement and currently serves a mixture of residential customers and two CPA points of delivery (Corwine Lane—CPA POD 15 and Spencer—CPA POD 13). It is also stated that the gas supply for Line 4008 markets ultimately is delivered from parallel Line 4226 to Line 4008 via the Dallas City point of delivery. Columbia states that it would maintain approximately 0.4 mile of Line 4008 which would continue to be served from the Dallas City point of delivery for continuing service to multiple domestic taps. It is indicated that with the abandonment of Line 4168 the Red Rock point of delivery would continue to maintain a gas supply to CPA from Line 4226.

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) 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 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.

**Linwood A. Watson Jr.**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-26533 Filed 10-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-793-000]

#### **Kern River Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization**

September 29, 1998.

Take notice that on September 18, 1998, Kern River Gas Transmission (Kern River), 295 Chipeta Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, filed in Docket No. CP98-793-000 a request pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) for authorization to modify its Fillmore and Milford Meter Station in Fillmore and Beaver Counties, Utah, respectively by partially abandoning certain existing facilities and construction and operating appropriate replacement facilities, under Kern River's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP98-2048-000 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.

Kern River proposes to remove the existing 2-inch rotary meters and associated 2-inch regulators, 2-inch relief valve and appurtenances and replacing them with new high-capacity 1-inch turbine meters and appurtenances. It is said that the design delivery capacity of the meter stations would not change as a result of the modifications.

Kern River states that the estimated cost of the facilities would be approximately \$11,206 at the Fillmore Meter Station and \$11,406 at the Milford Meter Station.

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 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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-26535 Filed 10-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 346-MN]

#### Minnesota Power, Inc.; Notice of Minnesota Power, Inc.'s Request for Waiver and To Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application

September 29, 1998.

On September 21, 1998, the existing licensee, Minnesota Power, Inc. (Minnesota Power), filed a request to waive certain Commission regulations and to use alternative procedures for submitting an application for new license for the existing Blanchard Hydroelectric Project No. 346. The project is located on the Mississippi River, in Morrison County, Minnesota, and consists of 750-foot-long, 45-foot-high concrete gravity dam with an integral powerhouse, and 1,152-acre reservoir, three generating units with a total installed capacity of 18 MW, and appurtenant facilities.

Minnesota Power has demonstrated that it has made an effort to contact all resource agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other affected by the proposal, and that a consensus exists that the use of alternative procedures is appropriate in this case. Further, waiving the Commission's regulations will be automatic upon approval of the alternative procedures stipulated in Order No. 596.<sup>1</sup>

Minnesota Power has submitted a communications protocol that is supported by the interested entities.

The purpose of this notice is to invite any additional comments on Minnesota Power's request to use the alternative procedures, pursuant to Section 4.34(i) of the Commission's regulations. Additional notices seeking comments on the specific project proposal, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedures being requested here combine the prefiling consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing Minnesota Power to complete and file

an Environmental Assessment (EA) in lieu of Exhibit E of the license application. This differs from the traditional process, in which an applicant consults with agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs during preparation of the application for the license and before filing it, but the Commission staff performs the environmental review after the application is filed. The alternative procedures are intended to simplify and expedite the licensing process by combining the prefiling consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants.

#### Applicant Prepared EA Process and Blanchard Project Schedule

Minnesota Power has met with state and federal resource agencies, and NGOs regarding the Blanchard Hydroelectric Project. Minnesota Power has submitted a proposed schedule for the alternative procedures that leads to the filing of a license application by August 2001.

#### Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on Minnesota Power's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Blanchard Hydroelectric Project.

#### Filing Requirements

The comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedures," and include the project name and number (Blanchard Hydroelectric Project No. 346).

For further information on this process, please call Tom Dean of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at 202-219-2778.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP96-331-009]

#### National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

September 29, 1998.

Take notice that on September 15, 1998, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Fourth Revised Volume No. 1, First Revised Sheet No. 12, to be effective November 1, 1998.

National Fuel states that the filing is made to implement two firm storage agreements between National Fuel and National Fuel Resources, Inc. (NFR) and one firm storage agreement between National Fuel and Engage U.S., L.P. (Engage). National Fuel states that each of these agreements provides for negotiated rates pursuant to GT&C Section 17.2 of National Fuel's tariff and the Commission's policy regarding negotiated rates. National Fuels states that under its agreements with NFR and Engage, firm storage service would be provided under its FSS Rate Schedule at a formula rate based upon the difference between the price of gas at Niagara, as published by *Gas Daily*, applicable at the time of injection, and such price applicable at the time of withdrawal. The specific formula is set forth in the amendments to the agreements, which accompany National Fuel's tariff filing.

National Fuel states that it is serving copies of the filing upon its firm customers, interested state commissions and on all interruptible customers.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed on or before October 5, 1998. 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 proceedings. 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. 98-26539 Filed 10-2-98; 8:45 am]

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<sup>1</sup> Order No. 596, Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects, 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).