

considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP98-60-000, CP98-62-000, CP98-64-000, and CP98-65-000]

Viking Voyageur Gas Transmission Company, L.L.C.; Notice of Applications

November 7, 1997.

Take notice that on October 31, 1997, Viking Voyageur Gas Transmission Company, L.L.C. (Viking Voyageur), 825 Rice Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55117-5484, filed in Docket Nos. CP98-60-000, CP98-62-000, CP98-64-000, and CP98-65-000 applications pursuant to Section 7(c) and Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Parts 284 and 157 of the Commission's regulations for: a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct, own, operate, and maintain natural gas pipeline facilities; authorization pursuant to Section 3 of the NGA and a Presidential Permit for the siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of certain facilities for the importation of natural gas; a blanket certificate authorizing non-discriminatory, open-access transportation services; and blanket certificate authorization to engage in certain routine activities, all as more fully set forth in the applications which are on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

As part of a coordinated pipeline project designed to transport 1.4 Bcf per day of natural gas from Empress, Alberta to the Joilet, Illinois area, Viking Voyageur proposes to construct the United States portion of the pipeline facilities. The proposed pipeline facilities will interconnect with several interstate pipelines and local distribution companies and will directly provide service to various delivery points in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Upon acceptance of the requested certification, Viking Voyageur will be a natural gas company subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

In Docket No. CP98-60-000, Viking Voyageur requests authorization to construct, own, operate, and maintain approximately 773 miles of 42-inch diameter pipeline originating at a point of interconnection with the Canadian portion of the coordinated project at the U.S./Canada border at Noyes, Minnesota (near Emerson, Manitoba). The proposed pipeline facilities would extend through Minnesota and Wisconsin to a terminus in Will County, Illinois. Viking Voyageur also proposes to construct twenty-two meter stations and compression facilities totaling 124,000 horsepower. The compression facilities will be located in Kittson and Otter Tail Counties, Minnesota and Polk and Waushara Counties, Wisconsin. The project cost is estimated to be about \$1.24 billion.

Viking Voyageur requests a preliminary determination on non-environmental issues by April 1, 1998, and a final order granting certificate authority by November 1, 1998, in order to meet a proposed in-service date of November 1, 1999.

In Docket No. CP98-62-000, Viking Voyageur submitted an application pursuant to Section 3 of the NGA, part 153 of the Commission's regulations, and Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, and the Secretary of Energy's Delegation Order No. 0204-112, for Section 3 authorization and a Presidential Permit to site, construct, operate, and maintain certain facilities for the importation of natural gas to be located at the international border between the United States of America and Canada near Noyes, Minnesota.

In Docket No. CP98-64-000, Viking Voyageur requests a blanket certificate under Part 284, Subpart G of the Commission's regulations. Viking Voyageur filed a *pro forma* tariff that offers firm and interruptible transportation with flexible delivery points. Viking Voyageur offers two negotiated rate options—either a 10-year or a 15-year negotiated rate contract—as alternatives to Commission approved cost-of-service recourse rates for a 15-year term for firm transportation.

In Docket No. CP98-65-000, Viking Voyageur requests a blanket certificate authorizing construction operation, and abandonment of certain facilities under Part 157, Subpart F of the Commission's regulations.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before November 28, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, 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 385.214 or 385.211) 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. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide copies of their protests to the party or person to whom the protests are directed. 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.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents issued by the Commission, filed by the applicant, or filed by all other intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order.

However, an intervenor must serve copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as filing an original and 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have environmental comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission, and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a Federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 3, 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 these applications 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 Viking Voyageur to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-59-000]

Williams Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request under Blanket Authorization

November 7, 1997.

Take notice that on October 31, 1997, Williams Natural Gas Company (Williams), Post Office Box 3288, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101, filed in Docket No. CP98-59-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.216) for permission and approval to abandon in place a portion of the 12-inch Independence pipeline lateral, along with related facilities and services, all of which are located in Cass County, Missouri. Williams makes such request under its blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-479-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Specifically, Williams proposed to abandon in place, and cap approximately 6.09 miles of the Independence 12-inch lateral pipeline. Williams also proposes to abandon in place, by sale to Missouri Gas Energy (MGE) approximately 1.95 miles of the Independence 12-inch lateral pipeline, along with related services and facilities, and the Raymore town border station. It is stated that the 12-inch Independence pipeline was originally constructed, to enable Williams to supply the natural gas requirements of MGE, in the Independence, Missouri

area.¹ The Raymore town border station was originally installed in 1963 and certificated in Docket No. CP63-345.²

Williams states that the Lee's Summit town border meter will become a single point of delivery for MGE. Williams further states that to maintain service to the Lee's Summit town border location, it will construct a tie-over line from its Sugar Creek line to the Lee's Summit town border station pursuant to Section 311 of the NGPA.

Williams indicates that the most recent volumes of gas delivered to the Raymore town border station was 7,565 MMcf on a peak day with 595,035 MMcf delivered annually. It is stated that service to the Raymore town border facility will continue to be provided by MGE.

Williams indicates that MGE will integrate into its system, the facilities that Williams has designated to sell to MGE in this proceeding. It is averred that one domestic customer, located on the 1.95-mile segment, will be impacted by the proposed abandonment.

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.

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¹ The 12-inch pipeline segment proposed to be abandoned herein, was certificated in Docket No. G-756, 5 FPC 820, Cities Service Gas Company (1946).

² Cities Service Gas Company, 30 FPC 1,100 (1963).

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-56-000]

Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

November 7, 1997.

Take notice that on October 30, 1997, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company (Williston Basin), 200 North Third Street, Suite 300, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, filed in Docket No. CP98-56-000 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 authorization to construct and operate new metering and associated appurtenant facilities for use in providing delivery of transportation service gas to Bear Paw Operating Company, Inc. (Bear Paw), under Williston Basin's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-487-000 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.

Williston Basin states that the facilities to be constructed at the proposed metering facility will consist of a building, an orifice meter, SCADA communication equipment and miscellaneous piping, gauges and valves, all of which will be constructed on existing right-of-way at the Baker Compressor Plant in Section 12, T7N, R59E, Fallon County, Montana. Williston Basin states that Bear Paw has requested installation of this metering facility to allow Williston Basin to make deliveries of up to 4,800 Mcf per day to Bear Paw to be used as emergency fuel at the Big Horn plant. The estimated cost of the proposed metering facilities is \$11,400. The actual cost of the facility is 100% reimbursable by Bear Paw.

Williston Basin states that the addition of the proposed facilities will have no significant effect on its peak day or annual requirements, that the total volumes delivered will not exceed total volumes authorized prior to this request, that the existing tariff does not prohibit the addition of new delivery points and that there is sufficient capacity to accomplish deliveries without detriment or disadvantage to other customers.

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