

issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, indorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of the applicant, and compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of High Island's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is December 29, 1997. Copies of the full text of the order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32766 Filed 12-15-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. MT98-5-000]

Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc.; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

December 10, 1997.

Take notice that on December 5, 1997, Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc. (MIT) tendered for filing in its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets to become effective January 1, 1998:

Fourth Revised Sheet No. 148
Third Revised Sheet No. 149
Third Revised Sheet No. 150

MIT states that the purpose of the filing of the Revised Tariff Sheets is to update its tariff to reflect certain recent changes related to the offices and personnel of its marketing affiliate.

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, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests should be filed in accordance with Section 154.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests should be filed in accordance with 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. 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.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-27-002]

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Application to Amend Certificate

December 10, 1997.

Take notice that on November 12, 1997, as supplemented on December 5, 1997, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural), located at 701 East 22nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148, filed in Docket No. CP96-27-002 an Application to Amend Certificate (Amendment) pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA).¹ The certificate authority in this docket was issued pursuant to the Preliminary Determination issued on August 1, 1996 (76 FERC 61,142) and the Order Issuing Certificate issued on August 1, 1997 (80 FERC 61,147). The details of Natural's proposal are more fully set forth in its Amendment which is on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

The above referenced Commission Orders authorized the expansion of Natural's Amarillo Mainline by 345 MMcf/d to help serve 525 MMcf/d of new load expected to come on-line at Harper, Iowa, as of November 1, 1998. The Commission's Orders recognized that the difference between the expected new load and the amount of new capacity to be constructed would be provided by capacity to be turned back by MidCon Gas Services Corporation (MidCon Gas). Now, Natural has gotten an additional 120 MMcf/d of turned back capacity and expects to get 110 MMcf/d more before the 520 MMcf/d of new load comes on-line.

The Amendment notes, first, that the new load has been reduced to 520

MMcf/d because one of the shippers has been unable to obtain upstream capacity. However, the primary purpose of the Amendment is to reduce the amount of new capacity to be built to help serve the 520 MMcf/d of new load. Natural requests that two specific expansion levels be authorized, in lieu of the 345 MMcf/d level. They are 220 MMcf/d (estimated to cost \$55.1 million) and 110 MMcf/d (estimated to cost \$23.7 million).

The 9,000 horsepower of additional compression at Station 110 in Henry County, Illinois and the Mississippi River crossing, already approved in the previous orders, will still be used. The Amendment will reduce the number of miles of new 36-inch loop line that will be constructed. As originally certificated, the project required 85.7 miles of new pipeline looping in various segments. The 220 case will reduce that to 34.8 miles. The 110 case will reduce it to 4.1 miles. In both cases, the new loop line will be constructed in right-of-way that was approved in the previous orders. The only changes will be the locations of the necessary crossover points, where the new loop line and, in the 110 case, the Mississippi River crossing will be interconnected with existing facilities of the Amarillo Mainline.

Natural states that it will actually construct the facilities for only one of the two new expansion levels, depending on the total amount of existing capacity that is actually available to help serve the new load. The Amendment states that no significant environmental issues are presented, because the lower expansion levels will result from a shortening of the loop line mileage previously authorized in this docket. A continuation of rolled-in rate treatment is said to be warranted, because each of the two new expansion levels will have only a minimal impact on Natural's existing rates.

Any person desiring to be heard or making any protest with reference to said Amendment should on or before December 31, 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

¹ Natural's Amendment was incomplete until the supplement was filed on December 5, 1997.

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. Persons who previously filed motions to intervene on Docket No. CP96-27-000 and 001 need not file again.

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 comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of such 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 the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the NGA 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 Natural to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-85-000]

NorAm Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

December 10, 1997.

Take notice that on December 5, 1997, NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NGT) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Fourth Revised Volume No. 1, the following revised tariff sheets, to be effective April 1, 1998:

Third Revised Sheet No. 190
First Revised Sheet No. 192A
Third Revised Sheet No. 196
First Revised Sheet No. 201A
First Revised Sheet No. 204A
Third Revised Sheet No. 276
Second Revised Sheet No. 278
First Revised Sheet No. 279A
First Revised Sheet No. 279B
First Revised Sheet No. 279C
Third Revised Sheet No. 280
Third Revised Sheet No. 286
Second Revised Sheet No. 290
Second Revised Sheet No. 305
First Revised Sheet No. 305A
Third Revised Sheet No. 307
First Revised Sheet No. 307A

NGT states that the filing revises the tariff to eliminate paper nominations and paper capacity release transactions, and provides that such activities will be accomplished electronically except during times of emergency.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this 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 of Practice and Procedure. All such motions or protests should 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. 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.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER97-4352-000]

SEMCO Energy Services, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order

December 11, 1997.

SEMCO Energy Services, Inc. (SEMCO) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which SEMCO will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions as a marketer. SEMCO also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, SEMCO requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability of SEMCO.

On November 28, 1997, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Rate Applications, Office of Electric Power Regulation, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by SEMCO 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 Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214).

Absent a request for hearing within this period, SEMCO is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, indorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance of assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of the applicant, and compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of SEMCO's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.