

application, pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations seeking permission and approval to abandon by sale 1.9 Bcf of base gas in Columbia's Lucas Storage Field (Lucas Field) located in Ashland and Richland Counties, Ohio, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Columbia states that operational efficiencies within the Lucas Field have reduced the need to maintain the historic levels of base gas in Lucas Field. Columbia further states that the disposition of proceeds from the proposed sale of the base gas will be made pursuant to Section C. of Article IV, of Stipulation II of the Settlement in Docket No. RP95-408 Columbia Gas Transmission Corp., 79 FERC ¶ 61,044 (1997).

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to either Ronald L. Binford at (304) 357-2489 (voice) 357-2926 (fax) or Fredric J. George at (304) 357-2359 (voice) (304) 357-3206 (fax), Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, P.O. Box 1273; Charlestown, West Virginia 25325-1273.

Any person desiring to participate in the hearing process or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before July 14, 1999, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 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 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.

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 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 this application 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 abandonment 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 Columbia to appear or be represented at the hearing.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER99-3253-000]

#### Mid-Continent Area Power Pool; Notice of Filing

June 21, 1999.

Take notice that on June 15, 1999, the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP), on behalf of its public utility members, filed short-term firm and non-firm service agreements under MAPP Schedule F with AES Power, Incorporated; Ameren Services Company; Ames Municipal Electric System; Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric); Central Iowa Power Cooperative; Conagra Energy Services, Inc.; GEN-SYS Energy; Great River Energy; Koch Energy Trading, Incorporated; Lincoln Electric System (LES); Madison Gas and Electric Company; Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association; Minnesota Power; Minnkota Power Cooperative, Incorporated; Missouri River Energy Services; Northern AES; Rainbow Energy Marketing Corporation; Rochester Public Utilities; Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency; St. Joseph Light & Power Company; Tenaska Power Services Co.; and TransCanada Power. MAPP also filed, on behalf of its public utility members, service specifications for long-term service under Schedule F with Basin Electric; Interstate Power Company—Marketing; LES; MidAmerican Energy Company; Nebraska Public Power District; Wisconsin Power & Light Company—Bulk Power Marketing; and Wisconsin Public Power, Inc.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such 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 Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before July 6, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. 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. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims/htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-16448 Filed 6-28-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-558-000]

#### National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Notice of Application

June 23, 1999.

Take notice that on June 15, 1999, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel), 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203, filed in Docket No. CP99-558-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for permission and approval to abandon the storage service it provides to Colonial Gas Company (Colonial) and Boston Gas Company (Boston Gas) under its SS-1 and SS-2 Rate Schedules, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Specifically, National Fuel seeks permission and approval to abandon the storage service it provides to Colonial under National Fuel's SS-1 Rate Schedule, and Boston Gas under National Fuel's SS-2 Rate Schedule, effective April 1, 2000. National Fuel states that both customers, as provided in their service agreements, submitted written notice of termination to National Fuel, effective at the end of the gas day on March 31, 2000.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to David

W. Reitz at (716) 857-7949, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation, 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make protest with reference to said application should on or before July 14, 1999, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 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. 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.

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 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 this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are 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 National Fuel to appear or be represented at the hearing.

**David P. Boergers,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-16449 Filed 6-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Southwestern Power Administration

#### Sam Rayburn Dam Project Power Rate

**AGENCY:** Southwestern Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed extension.

**SUMMARY:** The Current Sam Rayburn Dam Project rate was approved by the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on December 7, 1994, Docket No. EF94-4021-000. These rates were effective October 1, 1994, through September 30, 1998. On August 14, 1998, the Deputy Secretary of Energy approved a one-year extension of the Sam Rayburn Dam rate schedule for the period October 1, 1998 through September 30, 1999. The Administrator, Southwestern, has prepared Current and Revised 1999 Power Repayment Studies for the Sam Rayburn Dam Project which show the need for a minor rate adjustment of \$4,692 (0.2 percent increase) in annual revenues. In accordance with Southwestern's rate adjustment threshold, dated June 23, 1987, the Administrator, Southwestern, may determine, on a case by case basis, that for a revenue decrease or increase in the magnitude of two percent, deferral of a formal rate filing is in the best interest of the Government. The Secretary of Energy has the authority to extend rates, previously confirmed and approved by FERC, on an interim basis, pursuant to 10 CFR 903.22(h) and 903.23(a)(3). In accordance with Department of Energy (DOE) rate extension authority and Southwestern's rate adjustment threshold, the Administrator is proposing that the rate adjustment be deferred and that the current rates be extended for a one-year period effective through September 30, 2000.

**DATES:** Written comments are due on or before July 29, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Forrest E. Reeves, Assistant Administrator, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, Department of Energy, P.O. Box 1619, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101, (918) 595-6696, reeves@swpa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Department of Energy was created by an Act of the U.S. Congress, Department of Energy Organization Act, Pub. L. 95-91, dated August 4, 1977, and Southwestern's power marketing activities were transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Energy, effective October 1, 1977.

Southwestern markets power from 24 multiple-purpose reservoir projects with power facilities constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These projects are located in the States of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Southwestern's marketing area includes these states plus Kansas and Louisiana. Of the total, 22 projects comprise an Integrated System and are interconnected through Southwestern's transmission system and

exchange agreements with other utilities. The other two projects (Sam Rayburn and Robert Douglas Willis) are not interconnected with Southwestern's Integrated System. Instead, their power is marketed under separate contracts through which two customers purchase the entire power output of each of the projects at the dams.

Following DOE Order Number RA 6120.2, the Administrator, Southwestern, prepared a 1999 Current Power Repayment Study (PRS) using the existing Sam Rayburn Dam Project rate schedule. This PRS, like the previous year's, includes estimates for both Southwestern's and the Corps' portions of the unfunded Civil Service Retirement Service and post retirement life/health costs. The PRS shows the cumulative amortization through FY 1998 at \$12,339,699 on a total investment of \$25,734,878. The FY 1999 Revised PRS indicates the need for an increase in annual revenues of \$4,692, or 0.2 percent.

As a matter of practice, Southwestern would defer an indicated rate adjustment that falls within Southwestern's plus-or-minus two percent rate adjustment threshold. The threshold was developed to add efficiency to the process of maintaining adequate rates and is consistent with cost recovery criteria within DOE Order Number RA 6120.2 regarding rate adjustment plans. The Sam Rayburn Dam Project's FY 1998 (last year's) PRS concluded that the annual revenues needed to be decreased by 0.2 percent. At that time, it was determined prudent to defer the decrease in accordance with the established threshold and the current rate schedule was continued for one year. It once again seems prudent to defer this rate adjustment of 0.2 percent, or \$4,692 per year in accordance with Southwestern's rate adjustment threshold and reevaluate the ability of the existing rate to provide sufficient revenues to satisfy costs projected in the FY 2000 (next year's) PRS.

On December 7, 1994, the current rate schedule for the Sam Rayburn Dam Project was confirmed and approved by the FERC on a final basis for a period that ended September 30, 1998. In accordance with 10 CFR 903.22(h) and 903.23(a)(3), the Secretary may extend existing rates on an interim basis beyond the period specified by the FERC.

As a result of the benefits obtained by a rate adjustment deferral (reduced Federal expense and rate stability) and the Secretary's authority to extend a previously approved rate, Southwestern's Administrator is proposing to extend the current Sam