

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 the applicant to appear or be represented at the hearing.

G. Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the 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 therefore, 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 If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of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.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-20221 Filed 8-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

[Docket No. CP96-639-000, et al.]

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation, et al.; Natural Gas Certificate Filings

July 31, 1996.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation

[Docket No. CP96-639-000]

Take notice that on July 15, 1996, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National), 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203 filed in Docket No. CP96-639-000, 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 a new sales tap that will render service to an existing firm transportation customer, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (Distribution), and perform construction at and operate an existing sales tap that also serves Distribution, under National's blanket authorization issued in Docket No. CP83-4-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) 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.

National proposes to construct and operate a new sales tap in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, on National's Line S. National says the proposed annual quantity of gas at this sales tap is about 42,825 Mcf. National states that this tap will provide service to Distribution, pursuant to National's EFT Rate Schedule. National relates that the estimated cost of the sales tap will be about \$1,500, for which National will be reimbursed by the end-user customer of Distribution, International Timber & Veneer L.C., whose need for gas created the need for this new sales tap.

National also proposes to perform construction at and operate its Caledonia station, an existing sales tap in Livingston County, New York, to enable it to meet the pressure requirements at this interconnection with Distribution. National states it delivers gas to Distribution at the Caledonia station under National's EFT Rate Schedule. National explains that the proposed construction consists principally of replacing approximately 324 feet of 4-inch pipe and associated valving with approximately 324 feet of new coated 6-inch pipe running along the same path as the retired 4-inch pipe, allowing for a higher maximum operating pressure. National says it is also constructing some "auxiliary installations" pursuant to 18 CFR Section 2.55(b) (mostly an odorizer) at the Caledonia station. National states that the estimated annual quantity of gas at this sales tap will remain 5,300 Mcf per day but the potential deliverability of the station would be about 15,400 Mcf per day.

National relates that the estimated cost of work at the sales tap will be about \$70,000, for which National will be reimbursed by Distribution for \$45,000.

Comment date: September 16, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph G at the end of this notice.

2. Northwest Pipeline Corporation

[Docket No. CP96-650-000]

Take notice that on July 22, 1996, Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest), 295 Chipeta Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, filed in Docket No. CP96-650-000 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 the new Sandy Meter Station to provide natural gas service to new distribution facilities of Northwest Natural Gas Company in Clackamas County, Oregon, all under Northwest's

blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-433-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) 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.

Northwest states that the proposed Sandy Meter Station will consist of a four-inch tap, one four-inch turbine meter, four three-inch regulators in monitor configuration, relief valve, and appurtenances. Northwest says the new meter station will have a maximum design delivery capacity of approximately 9,015 Dth per day at a 400 psig delivery pressure.

Northwest states that firm transportation service to the proposed meter station will be subject to Northwest's Rate Schedule TF-1; while interruptible service will be subject to Northwest's Rate Schedule TI-1. Northwest reports that the total cost to construct the proposed meter station is estimated at approximately \$560,000.

Comment date: September 16, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph G at the end of this notice.

3. Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation

[Docket No. CP96-669-000]

Take notice that on July 26, 1996, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), a Delaware corporation, having its principal place of business at 1700 MacCorkle Avenue, S.E., Charleston, West Virginia 25314-1599, filed an abbreviated application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act for certificate authorization for the following:

(1) To increase the certificated horsepower at the Greencastle Compressor Station located in Franklin County, Pennsylvania of an existing Solar Turbines, Inc. (Solar) Centaur unit from 3,300 to 3,830 horsepower (an increase of 530 actual horsepower), resulting in 7,070 total station horsepower.

(2) To increase the certificated horsepower at the Gettysburg Compressor Station located in Adams County, Pennsylvania of an existing Solar Centaur unit from 2,710 horsepower to 3,830 horsepower (an increase of 1,120 horsepower reflecting both an actual change in horsepower and a change in rating standard from NEMA to ISO resulting in 7,500 total station horsepower).

Both Greencastle and Gettysburg compressor stations are located on Lines 1804 and 10240, a portion of Columbia's transmission pipeline system which traverses southern Pennsylvania. The increased horsepower at Greencastle and Gettysburg is available in both Centaur units without any further modification to the engine or compressors. Columbia states that the horsepower increases proposed herein

will provide additional design and operating flexibility that will enhance Columbia's ability to serve its existing customers reliably and more efficiently at current firm levels. Any incremental firm capacity that may become available as a result of these horsepower increases, will be offered to prospective shippers in accordance with Columbia's tariff. Columbia estimates that additional capacity will be less than 400 Dth/d west of Greencastle.

The estimated expense to implement the operation of both units at the higher horsepower level is \$57,400. These expenses will consist primarily of conducting pre- and post-uprating sound studies at both stations and installing additional sound attenuation devices at the Gettysburg compressor station. The costs will be charged to a maintenance transmission expense account.

Comment date: August 16, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph F at the end of this notice.

4. National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation

[Docket No. CP96-671-000]

Take notice that on July 26, 1996, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel), 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203, filed in Docket No. CP96-671-000 an application pursuant to Sections 7(b) and (c) of the Natural Gas Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of facilities in order to create additional firm transportation capacity of 48,000 Dth per day from the Niagara import point to the interconnection between National Fuel and Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) at Leidy and Wharton, Pennsylvania, (1997 Niagara Expansion Project), and permission and approval to abandon certain facilities, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

National Fuel states that as a result of an open season conducted between August and September 1995, National Fuel entered into agreements for firm transportation quantities of 21,344 Dth per day with Enron Capital & Trade Corp. (EC&T) and 23,000 Dth per day of winter-only service with Renaissance Energy (U.S.), Inc. (Renaissance). It is stated that the shippers plan to use the additional capacity on National Fuel's system in combination with additional capacity on Transco's system that has been proposed by Transco in its SeaBoard Expansion Project at Docket No. CP96-545-000. National Fuel states

that it is currently soliciting service requests for the remaining 3,656 Dth per day of firm winter capacity. National Fuel further submits that the shippers have committed to firm transportation service for terms of ten years.

It is stated that EC&T will receive firm transportation under National Fuel's Rate Schedule FT at existing rates. Renaissance has request firm transportation only during the winter period (November 1st through March 31st of each contract year), and the facilities designed by National Fuel for this shipper will create additional capacity that is available only during the winter period. With certain proposed tariff changes discussed in Section VIII of its application, National Fuel contends that it will be in a position to render a winter-only firm transportation service under Rate Schedule FT. As discussed in Section VI of its application, National Fuel proposes a surcharge to its FT rates to make up the difference between the revenues generated by its maximum rates and the revenues needed over each winter period to cover the cost of service associated with the additional winter firm capacity.

In order to provide the firm transportation services for the 1997 Niagara Expansion shippers, National Fuel proposes to construct, install and operate the following facilities:

1. Modifications to existing units 1-5 at National Fuel's Concord Compressor Station in Erie County, New York, to increase the horsepower (hp) of the station from 9,950 hp to 11,250 hp.
2. Modifications to the existing Ellisburg Compressor Station in Potter County, Pennsylvania, including the abandonment of four compressor units (three 330 hp units and one 300 hp unit) used for storage and installation of one new 2,250 hp compressor.

In addition, National Fuel proposes to increase the maximum allowable operating pressure of Lines X-North and XM-2 located in Niagara and Erie Counties, New York, from the authorized 720 psig to 780 psig.

National Fuel estimates that the proposed facilities will cost \$10.6 million. It is stated that included in the cost of the project are the costs associated with uprating the Lockport Station, located on the jointly-owned Niagara Loop Line, which will be performed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee), its operator, pursuant to a separate filing.

National Fuel requests that the Commission grant rolled-in rate treatment with respect to the costs and revenues associated with its 1997 Niagara Expansion Project in its next Section 4 rate proceeding. National Fuel

contends that if the FT surcharge is approved, and costs are allocated in the manner discussed in Section VII of its application, the project would not increase the rates of any of National Fuel's firm shippers and would decrease the rates of some of its shippers.

In addition, National Fuel requests waiver of Section 3.2 of its Rate Schedule FT to the extent necessary to permit National Fuel to accept a guaranty from Renaissance's parent company, Renaissance Energy Ltd., to guarantee the obligations of Renaissance under the service agreement to be executed by National Fuel and Renaissance.

National Fuel also requests a waiver of the provisions of its Rate Schedule FT to the extent necessary to permit National Fuel to enter into a service agreement with one of its prospective shippers, EC&T, which grants shippers a unilateral right to extend the term of the service agreement. National Fuel states that such a waiver is appropriate in view of the contractual relationship between EC&T and Transco.

In its application, National Fuel also seeks waiver of its tariff to the extent necessary to include a mutual waiver of consequential, punitive and certain other damages, found in Article VI(10) of the form of service agreement between National Fuel and EC&T.

National Fuel requests that the Commission issue an order granting the authorization requested herein on or before April 1, 1997 to allow for the commencement of the new services as scheduled on November 1, 1997.

Comment date: August 21, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph F at the end of this notice.

5. Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation

[Docket No. CP96-680-000]

Take notice that on July 30, 1996, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco), Post Office Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77251, filed an application in Docket No. CP96-680-000 pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for an order permitting and approving the abandonment of firm storage and exchange service provided to Mid Louisiana Gas Company (Mid Louisiana) under Transco's Rate Schedule X-140, effective September 1, 1996, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

It is stated that Transco and Mid Louisiana are parties to a firm storage and exchange agreement dated August 31, 1977, as amended, which agreement is Rate Schedule X-140 in Volume 2 of

Transco's FERC Gas Tariff. Transco states that such agreement was approved by Commission order issued July 14, 1977 in Docket No. CP77-267, 59 FPC 672 (1977).

Transco states that, pursuant to such agreement, it is authorized to receive, at special points of delivery, up to 25,500 Mcf/d and to inject thermally equivalent quantities into the Hester Field for Mid Louisiana's account and to withdraw up to 76,500 Mcf/d from the Hester Field and to deliver thermally equivalent quantities to Mid Louisiana at the specified points of delivery. Transco states that it was authorized to provide a firm storage service of 3,000,000 Mcf of gas annually.

Transco states that the primary term of the storage and transportation agreement underlying Rate Schedule X-140 was set to expire on October 1, 1990, but that such term was extended by amendments dated August 31, 1990 and August 14, 1992. Transco states that it received notice from Mid Louisiana by letter dated September 1, 1995 that it was terminating the storage and exchange service effective September 1, 1996. Transco further states that Mid Louisiana has a pending request, in Docket No. CP95-730-000 for Commission authorization to abandon the firm storage service it receives from Transco at the Hester Storage Field, to become effective September 1, 1996. Transco states that the purpose of its application is to obtain Commission authorization to abandon its obligations to provide firm storage and transportation and exchange service to Mid Louisiana pursuant to Rate Schedule X-140, effective September 1, 1996.

Transco also seeks Commission approval, to the extent necessary, to retain the storage capacity and associated injection and withdrawal rights in the Hester Field which are currently held by Mid Louisiana and for which abandonment authorization is sought herein. Transco states that since the implementation of Order No. 636 on the Transco system, it has relied extensively on Mid Louisiana's injection and withdrawal rights at the Hester Field as a tool for system balancing as permitted by the Rate Schedule X-140 agreement. It is stated that Exhibit Z-1 of the application illustrates Transco's use of Mid Louisiana's injection and withdrawal rights in the Hester Storage Field or the annual periods commencing January 1993 through May 1996.

Transco states that no facilities are proposed to be abandoned by the instant application and that no service to any of Transco's other customers will be terminated because of the requested

abandonment. In addition, Transco states that the proposed abandonment will have no effect upon any of Transco's other existing rate schedules or tariffs on file with the Commission.

Comment date: August 21, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph F at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraphs

F. Any person desiring to be heard or make any protest with reference to said filing should on or before the comment date file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., 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 385.211 and 385.214) 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 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 filing 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 the applicant to appear or be represented at the hearing.

G. Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the 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 therefore, 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.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-20220 Filed 8-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

[Docket No. RM96-14-001]

Secondary Market Transactions on Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines

Issued July 31, 1996.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Experimental Pilot Program to Relax the Price Cap for Secondary Market Transactions, and Request for Office of Management and Budget Emergency Processing of Submission of Collection of Information

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is issuing an order establishing a proposed pilot program to release the price cap for releases of capacity and sales of interruptible and short-term firm transportation in certain geographic areas.

Because the Commission anticipates implementing the pilot program for the 1996-97 winter heating season, the Commission, pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.13, is providing notice of its request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for emergency processing of the proposed collection of information relating to the pilot program.

DATES: The Commission requests applications for the pilot program by August 30, 1996. Comments on the applications will be due 15 days after filing of applications to participate. Applications and comments on the applications should be filed with the Office of the Secretary and should refer to Docket No. RM96-14-001.

Because the Commission has requested OMB to process the proposed collection of information in Docket No. RM96-14-001 on an emergency basis, comments on this collection of information should be filed with OMB, attention Desk Officer FERC, as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Goldenberg, Office of the