Water uses, needs, and public expectations have changed dramatically since the reservoir system was originally authorized in 1938. A full range of beneficial uses needs to be considered for the reservoir system. Because the Willamette Valley is heavily populated and one of fastest growing regions in the State, the demands placed on Corps reservoirs for municipal and industrial water supplies as well as irrigation needs are expected to increase in the future.

The water quality strategy for the Willamette River is currently based on release of stored water for low flow augmentation. Water quality permits based on the existing minimum flows provide no allowance for new waste loads in the future and presume that increased growth and development would be achieved within existing permit limits. Also, recreation has become a major economic and social use at many of the reservoirs and is dependent upon maintaining high conservation pool levels.

In recent years, the regional awareness for rebuilding fish and wildlife populations in the Willamette Basin has steadily increased. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has adopted a Wild Fish Management Policy to protect the genetic resources of Oregon's wild fish and has adopted management strategies by subbasin based on increasing natural production. Natural production is accepted as the key to restoration and recovery of the declines in native fish stocks as an effort to prevent more listings of fish species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In the Willamette Basin, steelhead and spring chinook salmon are native anadromous fish listed by the ODFW as sensitive species; recently, these species were petitioned for listing under the ESA. As of July 1996, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed some steelhead stocks for listing; stocks originating above Willamette Falls were not included. Other sensitive fish species in the basin include the Oregon chub and bull trout. Oregon chub was listed as Federally endangered in November 1993, and bull trout is a candidate species for listing under the ESA. Because of their regional and national significance, these fish species are given high priority with respect to current and future management activities in the Willamette Basin.

Five alternative scenarios reflecting changed system conditions from the base (without project or No Action) condition will be developed by varying the emphasis of the beneficial uses of the system. Beneficial uses to emphasize in addition to the purposes of flood protection, navigation, irrigation, and power include acquatic habitat and fish life-cycle needs, water quality, reservoir and downstream recreation, municipal and industrial water supply, and possibly other uses. The alternative of no action, i.e., continuing to operate the system as presently done, will also be considered. This includes development of a scenario reflecting the greatest net National Economic Development benefits (NED plan). The alternative scenarios will be analyzed in the feasibility study to determine physical, economic, environmental, cultural, and other possible benefits and effects from the base condition.

The EIS scoping process will commence in October 1996 with the issuance of a scoping letter. Federal, State and local agencies, Indian tribes, and interested organizations and individuals will be asked to comment on the significant issues relating to the potential effects of the alternatives. Potentially significant issues to be addressed in the EIS include: Effects on populations and habitat of anadromous and resident fish, especially threatened, endangered, or sensitive species; Effects on wetlands and flood plains; Effects on power production, recreation, irrigation, water quality.

Other environmental review and consultation requirements to be addressed in the EIS include:

(1) Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended

(2) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

(3) Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended

(4) Cultural Resources Acts

(5) Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management

(6) Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands

A series of scoping meetings/public workshops are planned for February–March 1997 at various locations in the basin. Other public workshops will be held periodically throughout the study. Times and locations of these public workshops will be announced via the media. The DEIS is scheduled to be published and distributed for public review and comment in October 1999.

Dated: September 13, 1996.

Howard B. Jones,

Chief, Planning and Engineering Division.

[FR Doc. 96–24551 Filed 9–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–AR–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. GT96–93–000]

Equitrans L.P.; Notice of Refund Report

September 19, 1996.

Take notice that on August 6, 1996, Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans) tendered for filing with the Commission a refund report in compliance with the Commission's February 22, 1995 Order Approving Refund Methodology for 1994 Overcollections in Docket No. RP95–124–000.

Equitrans states that on June 28, 1996, it received $226,304 refund from the Gas Research Institute (GRI), representing an overcollection of the 1995 GRI Tier 1 funding target level set for Equitrans by GRI. On July 18, 1996, in compliance with the Commission's Order, Equitrans states that it sent the GRI refund, pro rata, to its eligible firm shippers based on amounts paid through GRI surcharges during 1995.

Equitrans states that copies of its refund report have been served on all affected parties and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or protest said 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 385.211 and 385.214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All such motions or protests must be filed on or before September 26, 1996. 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.

[FR Doc. 96–24499 Filed 9–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

[Docket No. RP96–291–002]

Mid Louisiana Gas Company; Notice of Amendment to Compliance Filing

September 19, 1996.

Take notice that on September 16, 1996, Mid Louisiana Gas Company (MIDLA) tendered for filing certain schedules to amend its compliance

filing dated September 9, 1996 in FERC Docket No. RP96–291–001. MIDLA asserts that the purpose of this filing is to further comply with the Commission's order issued August 23, 1996 in Docket No. RP96–291–000.

MIDLA states that the instant filing is tendered in order to furnish further detail of breakdown of costs on Schedules H–1(1)(a) and H–1(1)(b).

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must 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. 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.

[FR Doc. 96–24500 Filed 9–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

[Docket No. RP96–331–002]

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

September 19, 1996.

Take notice that on September 16, 1996, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets, to be effective September 1, 1996:

Third Revised Sheet No. 16
Third Revised Sheet No. 29
Second Revised Sheet No. 30
First Revised Sheet No. 65N
Third Revised Sheet No. 74
First Revised Sheet No. 83
Second Revised Sheet No. 94
Original Sheet No. 94A
Second Revised Sheet No. 105
First Revised Sheet No. 125
Third Revised Sheet No. 131D
Third Revised Sheet No. 131M
Second Revised Sheet No. 131N
First Revised Sheet No. 131R.04
Second Revised Sheet No. 131V
Second Revised Sheet No. 131W
First Revised Sheet No. 131CC.05
First Revised Sheet No. 182
First Revised Sheet No. 183
First Revised Sheet No. 183A
Second Revised Sheet No. 206
Third Revised Sheet No. 207
Substitute Fourth Revised Sheet No. 211

National Fuel states that this filing is made in compliance with the Commission's order of August 30, 1996 (the Order), which accepted, subject to conditions, the tariff sheets containing new GT&C Section 17.2, which addresses the provision of transportation and storage services at negotiated rates. National Fuel states that the Order required it to file tariff language clarifying whether Section 17.2 is intended to encompass a formula rate. National Fuel states that the instant filing satisfies that condition, and addresses other changes that, according to the Order, must be made to its tariff before it may charge negotiated rates. These include references to negotiated rates in each rate schedule and the tariff sections concerning scheduling and curtailment, and the elimination of language in Section 17.2 which provided for the calculation of a negotiated rate on a one hundred percent load factor basis for purposes of capacity allocation.

National Fuel states that it is serving copies of the filing to its firm customers and interested state commissions. Copies are also being served on all interruptible customers as of the date of the filing.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must 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. 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.

[FR Doc. 96–24502 Filed 9–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

[Docket No. RP96–329–001]

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

September 19, 1996.

Take notice that on September 16, 1996, NorAm Gas Transmission (NGT) tendered for filing to be part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Fourth Revised Volume No. 1, Sixth Revised Sheet No. 13.

NGT states that the purpose of this filing is to comply with the Commission order of August 30, 1996, which required NGT to correct the pagination of its tariff sheet filed in Docket No. RP96–329. Additionally, NGT states it includes in the filing an explanation of how the adjustment to NGT's billing determinants in subject filing conform to the Commission's policy regarding whether discounts could be used in determining billing adjustments established in *Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America*, 69 FERC ¶ 61,209 (1994).

NGT stated that copies of its filings have been mailed to all of its affected customers and the State Commissions of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

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 18 CFR 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must 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. 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.

[FR Doc. 96–24501 Filed 9–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

[Docket No. CP96–576–001]

Northwest Pipeline Corporation; Notice of Petition To Amend

September 19, 1996.

Take notice that on September 16, 1996, Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest), P.O. Box 58900, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108–0900, filed in Docket No. CP96–576–001 a petition to amend its application filed in Docket No. CP96–576–000 to delete that portion of the application proposing to construct approximately 2.775 miles of 10-inch pipeline and metering facilities in Clark County, Washington, all as more fully set forth in the petition which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northwest indicates that, in the original filing submitted under the prior notice procedure in Docket No. CP96–576–000, it proposed to construct and operate approximately 2.775 miles of 10-inch pipeline and a new metering station in Clark County, Washington to implement a firm transportation service