

2246, or Tom Gooding, 202-208-1123, at the Commission.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-31275 Filed 12-9-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. TQ97-2-23-000]

**Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff**

December 4, 1996.

Take notice that on November 25, 1996 Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (ESNG) tendered for filing certain revised tariff sheets in the above captioned docket as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1, with a proposed effective date of December 1, 1996.

ESNG states that the revised tariff sheets included herein are being filed pursuant to Section 21 of the General Terms and Conditions of ESNG's Gas Tariff to reflect changes in ESNG's jurisdictional rates. The sales rates set forth herein reflect an increase of \$1.0491 per dt in the Commodity Charge, as measured against ESNG's Out-Of-Cycle Quarterly PGA filing, Docket No. TQ97-1-23-000, et. al., filed on October 30, 1996 to be effective on November 1, 1996.

The commodity current purchased gas cost adjustment reflects ESNG's projected cost of gas for the months of December 1996 through January 1997, and has been calculated using its best estimate of available gas supplies to meet ESNG's anticipated purchase requirements. The increased gas costs in this filing are a result of higher prices being paid to producers/suppliers under ESNG's market-responsive gas supply contracts.

ESNG states that copies of the filing have been served upon its jurisdictional customers and interested State Commissions.

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, 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 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-31295 Filed 12-9-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. GT97-13-000]

**El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Tariff Filing**

December 4, 1996.

Take notice that on November 27, 1996, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) tendered for filing to become part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1-A, the following revised tariff sheets to become effective January 1, 1997:

Third Revised Sheet No. 256

Third Revised Sheet No. 257

El Paso states that the tendered tariff sheets update the identification of low and high load factor shippers for purposes of assessing the Gas Research Institute's (GRI) surcharges.

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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-31276 Filed 12-9-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. RP97-149-000]

**Gas Research Institute; Notice of Petition for Approval of Post-1997 Funding Mechanism**

December 4, 1996.

Take notice that on December 2, 1996, Gas Research Institute (GRI) filed a petition requesting approval of a post-1997 funding mechanism for the purpose of funding its Research and

Development (R&D) Program in 1998 and 1999.

GRI states that its filing is made in compliance with the Commission's directive that it must file by March 1, 1997 a proposed funding mechanism for post-1997 use.

The proposed funding mechanism involves the assessment of two separate surcharges:

- a Discountable Commodity Surcharge to Pipeline Shippers; and
- a Discountable Volumetric Interstate Delivery Charge to Local Distribution Companies and Intrastate Pipelines.

According to GRI, the Discountable Commodity Surcharge to Pipeline Shippers, which would still be subject to the "discount GRI first" rule, would be charged to shippers whenever associated commodity charges and one-part rates are at or above maximum stated tariff rate levels, including service provided at negotiated rates. GRI proposes that this surcharge be assessed on interstate transportation services (including storage) rendered by GRI's interstate pipeline members.

The revenue generated from the assessment of this surcharge would go to fund the "Pipeline and Producer Subprogram", which consists primarily of R&D on supply, transmission, and related environment and safety, plus an appropriate share of Administrative and General (A&G) expenses.

GRI states that the Discountable Volumetric Interstate Delivery Charge to Local Distribution Companies and Intrastate Pipelines would be a volumetric interstate delivery charge assessed on a monthly basis to local distribution companies (LDC's) and intrastate pipelines to fund R&D which would be of particular interest to LDC's, intrastate pipelines, and customers behind the city gate. This surcharge would be discountable only to a "floor" that is established for each LDC and intrastate pipeline.

The revenue generated from this surcharge would be used to fund the "LDC Subprogram", which consists primarily of R&D on distribution, end use, environment and safety, plus an appropriate share of A&G expenses.

GRI proposes to maintain separate collection accounts for revenue generated for each subprogram, so that any amounts in excess of a particular subprogram's current year R&D funding requirement could be applied to that subprogram's subsequent year R&D funding requirement.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest GRI's petition should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,