

the Natural Gas Act and Rules 206 and 212 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. In its original complaint, MGE requested, *inter alia*, an immediate contract reduction in its contract demand volume with Williams Natural Gas Company (Williams) if the Commission found Williams' construction project to be lawful. In its amendment to its complaint, MGE states that upon further review it does not seek at this time the previously requested contract demand reduction relief.

In order that protests, interventions and answers to the complaint and the amended complaint may be filed on the same date, an extension of time is being granted. Any person desiring to be heard or to make a protest with reference to the complaint and the amendment should on or before February 28, 1997, 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 385.214 or 385.211). 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 this proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules. Answers to the complaint and the amendment shall be due on or before February 28, 1997.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP97-232-000]

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

February 7, 1997.

Take notice that on February 6, 1997, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National), 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203, filed a request with the Commission in Docket No. CP97-232-000, pursuant to Sections 157.205, and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to construct and operate a sales tap to render service for an existing firm transportation customer authorized in blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-4-000, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

National proposes to construct and operate a new sales tap to provide service to National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation. The sales tap, designated as Station No.-2886, would be located in McKean County, Pennsylvania, on National's Line S-21 and would provide a proposed quantity of up to 100 Mcf per day. The estimated cost of the proposed sales tap is \$20,000, for which National would be reimbursed.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the Commission has issued this notice, 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 NGA (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the allowed time, 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 NGA.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-3554 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. EL97-25-000]

NorAm Energy Services, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order Initiating Jurisdictional Inquiry

February 7, 1997.

On February 5, 1997, the Commission issued an order initiating a jurisdictional inquiry concerning the planned merger of NorAm Energy Corporation, the parent company of NorAm Energy Services, Inc. (NorAm), a public utility, with Houston Industries, Incorporated, an exempt public utility holding company, and Houston Industries' subsidiaries, Houston Lighting & Power Company, an electric utility located in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, and Houston Industries Energy, Inc., owner of various interests in foreign utilities, exempt wholesale generators, and a qualifying facility.¹

Because the planned merger may require Commission approval pursuant to section 203 of the Federal Power Act,² the order directs NorAm to make a filing setting forth its views on the

¹ NorAm Energy Services, Inc., 78 FERC ¶61,111 (1997).

² 16 U.S.C. § 824b.

issue, and offers other interested persons an opportunity to comment on NorAm's filing. The order states that, in the alternative, NorAm may file an application for authorization pursuant to section 203.

The order directs NorAm to make said filing within 30 days of the issuance date of the order. If NorAm files a response arguing that authorization under section 203 is not required, interventions, protests, or comments are due 15 days after NorAm's filing. If NorAm files an application under section 203, interventions, protests, or comments will be due as specified by further notice.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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[Docket No. RP96-200-017]

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

February 7, 1997.

Take notice that on February 3, 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 February 1, 1997:

Tenth Revised Sheet No. 7
Third Revised Sheet No. 7A
Third Revised Sheet No. 7B
Third Revised Sheet No. 7C
Third Revised Sheet No. 7D
Original Sheet No. 7E.01
Original Sheet No. 7E.02
Original Sheet No. 7E.03
First Revised Sheet No. 7F

NGT states that these tariff sheets are filed herewith to reflect specific negotiated rate transactions for the month of February, 1997.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rule 211 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211). 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 protestant parties to the proceeding. Copies of this filing are