

section 311(a)(2) of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA).

Pontchartrain states that it is a Hinshaw Pipeline that operates wholly within the State of Louisiana and that it was issued a blanket certificate under section 284.224 on August 13, 1985. Pontchartrain provides storage service from a salt dome storage cavern it operates near Napoleonville, Assumption Parish, Louisiana. Pontchartrain states that the cavern is being leased from Shell Oil Company under a long term lease. Pontchartrain states that it currently provides Section 311 storage service to Shell Gas Services Company (Shell) under a contract that became effective November 9, 1992 and will terminate in 2012. Pontchartrain states that Shell is its only Section 311 storage customer and no other capacity is available for Section 311 service as all remaining capacity is used to serve intrastate customers.

Pursuant to section 284.123(b)(2)(ii), if the Commission does not act within 150 days of the filing date, the market-based negotiated rates for storage services will be deemed to be fair and equitable and not in excess of an amount which interstate pipelines would be permitted to charge for similar service. The Commission may, prior to the expiration of the 150-day period, extend the time for action or institute a proceeding to afford parties an opportunity for written comments and for the oral presentation of views, data, and arguments.

Any person desiring to participate in this rate proceeding must file a motion to intervene in accordance with Sections 385.211 and 385.214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures. All motions must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission on or before May 27, 1997. The petition for rate approval is on file with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-68-004]

Stingray Pipeline Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

May 12, 1997.

Take notice that on May 5, 1997, Stingray Pipeline Company (Stingray) tendered for filing as part of its FERC

Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1, certain tariff sheets to be effective May 1, 1997.

Stingray states that the purpose of the filing is to comply with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's order issued on April 18, 1997 in Docket Nos. RP97-68-001, et al.

Stingray states that copies of the filing have been served on its jurisdictional customers, interested state commissions, and all parties set out on the official services list at Docket No. RP97-68.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Section 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-487-000]

Western Resources, Inc.; ONEOK, Inc., and WAI, Inc.; Notice of Application to Abandon Transportation and Exchange Services and Application for Certificate Transferring Certificates, Services, and Authorizations

May 12, 1997.

Take notice that on May 1, 1997, Western Resources, Inc. (Western), 818 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, ONEOK, Inc. (ONEOK), 100 West 5th Street, P.O. Box 871, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103, and WAI, Inc. (WAI) jointly filed an application in Docket No. CP97-487-000. In the application, Western requests permission and approval, pursuant to section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act, to abandon/transfer: (1) Its limited jurisdiction certificate, issued in Docket No. CP93-750-000, which authorized the transportation of gas on a no-fee exchange basis between Western and Southern Union Company, d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy; (2) its blanket certificate authorization, issued

in Docket No. CP82-268-000; and (3) its section 7(f) service determination, issued to Western's predecessor—Kansas Power and Light Company in Docket No. CP89-485. ONEOK and WAI request a certificate authorizing ONEOK/WAI to: (1) Acquire Western's limited jurisdiction certificate; (2) acquire Western's blanket certificate authorization; (3) acquire Western's certificate authorizing its service area designation, i.e., Western's section 7(f) service determination; and (4) perform the transportation, exchange, and other services previously performed by Western, all as more fully set forth in the application, which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

According to the Applicants, Western is a local distribution company that currently provides natural gas service to customers in Cherokee County, Kansas and Ottawa County, Oklahoma. ONEOK operates principally as a natural gas utility through its Oklahoma Natural Gas Company division, which serves customers in Oklahoma, and WAI will be formed prior to the proposed transfer transaction, as a corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of Western, qualified to do business in Kansas.

The Applicants state that after the transfer transaction, ONEOK/WAI will be comprised of Western's existing gas operations in Cherokee County, Kansas and Ottawa County, Oklahoma and all of ONEOK's operations. The Applicants further assert that no change in gas business operations will occur at this time.

The Transfer Transaction

Western and ONEOK have entered into an agreement, dated December 12, 1996, under which Western will contribute its regulated gas businesses in Kansas and Oklahoma to WAI, including Western's stock in Westar Gas Marketing, Inc. (Western's marketing subsidiary), and Western's stock in Mid Continent Market Center, Inc. (MCMC),¹ in exchange for WAI common and preferred stock, and the assumption (by WAI) of certain of Western's unsecured debts. ONEOK will then merge into WAI, which (according to the Applicants) will result in the one-for-one conversion of all of the outstanding ONEOK common shares of stock into

¹ According to the Applicants, MCMC is a regulated, wholly-owned subsidiary of Western that the Commission recognized as a Hinshaw pipeline in Docket No. CP95-684-000. The Applicants add that MCMC operates in Kansas, providing interstate service under a blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP95-684-000, under which MCMC is allowed to conduct transaction under Part 284 of the Commission's regulations.