DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96–809–003]

Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.; Notice of Amendment to Application

July 23, 1997.

Take notice that on July 11, 1997, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (Maritimes), a Delaware limited liability company, filed an amendment to its September 23, 1996, application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity, under to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations. Maritimes's September 23rd application seeks authority to construct, own, operate and maintain a natural gas pipeline from Wells, Maine to the U.S.-Canadian border near Woodland, Maine and related pipeline laterals and compressor stations. The July 11th amendment changes certain parts of the route of Maritimes's proposed pipeline, changes certain parts of the lateral routes, and relocates the proposed Richmond Compressor Station. The details of the route changes are more fully set forth in the amendment which is on file and available to the public for inspection.

Maritimes's September 23 Application is for Phase II of its Project, as previously revised by its amendment filed on February 24, 1997 in Docket No. CP96–809–002. Maritimes's Phase II Project involves the construction of natural gas pipeline facilities from Wells to Woodland, as well as the provision of natural gas transportation service through those facilities. The overall Maritimes Project is part of a natural gas transportation facility for the Sable Offshore Energy Project (SOEP), which is being developed by a consortium of United States and Canadian energy companies. The SOEP is scheduled to bring offshore natural gas to the Maritimes Provinces in Canada and the northeastern United States in 1999. The joint construction, ownership and operation of a part of the Phase II facilities, from Wells to Westbrook, Maine is pending in Docket No. CP97–238–000; Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) is the joint applicant, along with Maritimes. The February 24th amendment reflects changes in Phase II of Maritimes's project related to the joint facilities.

The July 11th Amendment reflects the reroutes of the proposed mainline and lateral facilities and the relocation of a compressor station that have been adopted by Maritimes since its filing of the original pipeline rout in the September 23rd Application. Maritimes states that the reroutes and compressor station location reflected in the Amendment will result in:

(i) a reduction in the number of major water body crossings;

(ii) a reduction in the number of miles of wetlands crossed;

(iii) a reduction in impacts to residences; and,

(iv) an increase in the number of miles of proposed pipeline that are located adjacent to or within existing rights-of-way.

Maritimes provided the following summary description of the three largest mainline reroutes that it has adopted as part of its Phase II primary route, as well as a description of the new compressor station location and the Northern Alternative in the Richmond and Kennebec River area. Smaller route modifications are described in the exhibits and resource reports which accompanied the amendment.

The Bangor Hydro reroute, located in Washington and Hancock Counties, Maine, comprises about 46 miles of the reroutes proposed in the July 11th Amendment. Maritimes incorporated this reroute into its primary route to follow the existing Stud Mill Road corridor, the proposed Bangor Hydro corridor, and existing landowner-owned roads. Maritimes says that these landowner-owned roads provide both an existing corridor for the pipeline and potential overlap for work space where none originally existed. Maritimes says that although the Bangor Hydro reroute results in an increase of over three miles to the length of the original route, it determined that the environmental benefits of this reroute (mitigating the impact to existing forested lands and existing salmon habitat and deer yards in the Machias and Narraquagus River watersheds) warranted incorporated this reroute into its primary route.

Maritimes has incorporated another reroute in the Bangor-Brewer area, known as the Bangor Water District (BWD) Reroute. This reroute comprises about 20 miles long. Maritimes proposes to reroute the pipeline in this area since its original route traversed portions of a BWD watershed that comprises one of the sources of potable water for the Bangor-Brewer area, and to avoid Camp Roosevelt, a property owned by the Katahdin Council (Boy Scouts of America).

Maritimes has also proposed 12 miles of reroute in the Richmond, Maine area. Maritimes says that the Richmond Reroute is the result of its effort to improve its original route by avoiding residential and wetlands areas and by mitigating the environmental impacts and engineering constraints related to crossing existing roadways and the Kennebec Rivers. As a result of this reroute, Maritimes proposes to relocate its proposed compressor station in the Richmond area, which was originally proposed to be located near Milepost 145, to a location near revised Milepost 143. The environmental report provided by Maritimes as part of the July 11th amendment discusses a ''Northern Alternative Route'' which Maritimes says would make greater use of existing rights-of-way in the Richmond area.

Maritimes does not expect the reroutes and the change in compressor station location applied for in the Amendment to materially affect the cost of the Phase II Project, although the revised Exhibit G shows a 4.2-mile net increase in the length of the proposed mainline. The July 11th Amendment does not reflect any changes in Maritimes's proposed Phase II cost estimate, rates or tariff or related exhibits.

Maritimes requests a preliminary determination on non-environmental issues in this proceeding by September 1997. With respect to a final certificate addressing environmental issues, Maritimes requests that the Commission act upon its amended application as soon as reasonably possible.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said Amendment should on or before August 13, 1997, file with the Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene or protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 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. Any person who has already filed a motion to intervene in Docket Nos. CP96–809–000 or CP96–809–002 need not file again to obtain intervenor status.

Take further notice that pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the 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 Amendment if no petition to intervene is filed within the time required herein or 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 petition for leave to intervene is 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 Maritimes & Northeast to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–19867 Filed 7–28–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97–648–000]

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

July 23, 1997.

Take notice that on July 17, 1997, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Applicant), 701 East 22nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148, filed in Docket No. CP97–648–000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.216, and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act for authorization to abandon a 1.8 mile segment of Applicant's 36-inch Howard Street Lateral located in Cook County, Illinois, by sale to The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company (PGLC), a local distribution company; to abandon by removal certain meter facilities comprising Applicant's existing Rogers Park delivery point, the point where Applicant currently delivers gas to PGLC; and to construct and operate a replacement delivery point to PGLC on the Howard Street Lateral, under blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82–402–000,[1] all as more fully set forth in the request for authorization on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

Applicant states that the proposed activity is to create a direct interconnection between the systems of PGLC and Northern Illinois Gas Company (NI–Gas), without constructing substantial new facilities, and while maintaining Applicant's delivery capabilities to both systems off the Howard Street Lateral. Applicant has agreed to sell and PGLC has agreed to purchase the 1.8 miles of pipe for the sum of $225,000. Applicant states that this facility has a net book value of $0, and the $225,000 price is based on the approximate value of the right-of-way. PGLC's purchase of the facility will make it unnecessary for PGLC to acquire new right-of-way for the construction of a new facility to accomplish the PGLC/NI-Gas interconnect.

Applicant states that all transportation volumes being delivered at the current Rogers Park delivery point would be reassigned to the replacement delivery point, which would retain the Rogers Park name and have comparable delivery capability. There is no contemplated change between the present and proposed quantities of gas to be delivered; nor, will there be an impact on Applicant's peak day and annual deliveries as a result of the change in delivery point location. Applicant states that its customers on the subject facilities have no objection to the proposal.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after 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 failed within the time allowed therefor, 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. 97–19870 Filed 7–28–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

[1] *See*, 20 FERC § 62,415 (1982).

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97–646–000]

NorAm Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

July 23, 1997.

Take Notice that on July 17, 1997, NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NGT), 1600 Smith Street, Houston, Texas 77002, filed in Docket No. CP97–646–000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211) for authorization to construct and operate a tap in Arkansas under NGT's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82–348–000 and CP82–384–001 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

NGT proposes to install and operate a 1-inch tap and a first cut regulator on its Line JM–19 in Lee County, Arkansas. The total estimated volumes to be delivered to these facilities are 2,600 MMBtu annually and 16 MMBtu on a peak day. The estimated total cost of the project is $2,743.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after 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 therefor, 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. 97–19869 Filed 7–28–97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97–654–000]

NorAm Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

July 23, 1997.

Take notice that on July 18, 1997, NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NGT), 1600 Smith Street, Houston, Texas 77002, filed in Docket No. CP97–654–000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.211, and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211, and 157.216) for authorization to abandon certain facilities in Arkansas and construct and operate certain facilities in Arkansas to deliver gas to Tyson Foods, Inc. under NGT's blanket