

Specifically, NGT proposes to: (1) replace approximately 61.2 miles of 20-inch dresser-coupled pipe with standard 20-inch dresser-coupled pipe with standard 20-inch welded steel pipe, including a minor re-route at NGT's Ruston Compressor Station (Ruston); (2) reclassify an 8.2 mile segment of Line F as a low pressure gas supply line; (3) install minor yard and station piping at NGT's Buckley Compressor Station; existing pipeline (NGT indicates that no service will be interrupted or abandoned as a result of abandoning these taps); (6) replace and relocate 36 active taps on Line F; (7) abandon 33 inactive delivery tape; and (8) install minor yard and station piping at Ruston. NGT estimates that the cost of the proposed project is approximately \$32.3 million.

NGT explains that because of the engineering advancements inherent in modern 20-inch welded steel pipe, Line F will be able to operate at a higher pressure resulting in increased capacity totaling 170,000 MMBtu per day. NGT states that it has entered into three precedent agreements for transportation using Line F capacity that obligate shippers to multi-year commitments totaling 115,000 MMBtu. NGT claims that the discounted and negotiated rates bargained for between NGT and the precedent agreement shippers are required to meet NGT's competition.

NGT requests advanced determination under the Commission's pricing policy statement that the cost of this project will qualify for rolled-in rate treatment when NGT files its next Section 4 rate case. NGT asserts that its proposed upgrade will provide specific system benefits, such as increased system flexibility and improved reliability, that are proportionate to or greater than the rate impact of rolling-in the cost of the facilities. NGT states that it has conducted an analysis that demonstrates that the impact of rolling-in the Line F upgrade costs will be less than 5 percent.

Any person desiring to participate in the hearing process or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before October 2, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 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) 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.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by every one of the intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory 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 application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, 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 motion for leave to intervene is timely 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 NGT to appear to be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-726-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

September 11, 1997.

Take notice that on September 5, 1997, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed in Docket No. CP97-726-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, and 157.216, of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.216) for authorization to abandon 5 small volume measuring stations under Northern's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-401-000 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.

Northern states that it requests authority to abandon 5 small volume measuring stations located in Minnesota and Nebraska. Northern further asserts that end-users have requested the removal of these measuring stations from their property.

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.

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