

Answers to this complaint shall be due on or before October 3, 1997.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-755-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Application

September 23, 1997.

Take notice that on September 15, 1997, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed, in Docket No. CP97-755-000, an application pursuant to Sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations for an order permitting and approving the abandonment of certain compressor station facilities and a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate approximately 25 miles of 36-inch pipeline, with appurtenant facilities, all located in the state of Kansas, as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Specifically, Northern proposes to (1) abandon in place eleven (11) 1,600 HP horizontal compressor units (units 12 through 22) at its Bushton Compressor Station located in Rice County, Kansas; and (2) install and operate two pipeline stitches totaling approximately 25 miles of 36-inch pipeline and appurtenant facilities to connect and complete its existing "E-Line" between its Mullinville and Mackville Compressor Stations in Edward and Pawnee Counties, Kansas (Mullinville to Macksville Stitch) and between its Macksville and Bushton Compressor Stations in Barton and Rice Counties, Kansas (Macksville to Bushton Stitch). Northern states that, when compared to currently existing capacity, the overall capacity of Northern's mainline will be essentially the same when both the abandonment and pipeline stitches are completed. Northern estimates that the cost of the proposed project is approximately \$25,655,000, which will be financed with internally generated funds. Northern requests that authorization be issued by early spring 1998 in order for the facilities to be constructed and placed in service during Spring 1998.

Northern asserts that the rate impact to its existing shippers is within the 5 percent threshold applied by the Commission for a presumption in favor of rolled-in rates. Northern states the proposed abandonment, in conjunction with the new pipeline segment, is integral to Northern's existing pipeline system to ensure pipeline reliability during peak periods of demand thereby meeting the operational standard for rolled-in rates.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before October 14, 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 385.211 and 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 in any proceeding herein 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. Commentors 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. Commentors will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commentors 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 commentors or those requesting 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 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 permission and approval for the proposed abandonment and a grant of the certificate are 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 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 Northern to appear or to be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-25717 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-761-000]

Venice Gathering System, L.L.C., Notice of Application

September 23, 1997.

Take notice that on September 18, 1997, Venice Gathering System, L.L.C. (VGS), 1000 Louisiana, Suite 5800, Houston, Texas 77002-5050, filed an application with the Commission in Docket No. CP97-761-000 pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for permission and approval to abandon a transportation service currently performed for Samedan Oil Corporation (Samedan), all as more fully set forth in the application which is open to public inspection.

VGS states that it currently transports natural gas on an interruptible basis for Samedan under the month-to-month evergreen provisions of an October 1, 1991, gathering agreement while VGS' request in Docket Nos. CP97-533-000, *et al.*, for a Part 284 blanket certificate is pending before the Commission.¹

¹ The Commission declared VGS to be a jurisdictional entity subject to the Natural Gas Act