

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP98-20-000]

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Application

October 17, 1997.

Take notice that on October 10, 1997, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural), 701 East 22nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148-5072, filed an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for an order permitting the abandonment of its Buffalo Wallow Residue Lateral (Residue Lateral) and the related gathering facilities known as Gageby Creek, Washita Creek and Buffalo Wallow laterals (Gathering Facilities),¹ which consist of certificated and non-certificated facilities located in Hemphill and Wheeler Counties, Texas, by sale to American Processing, L.P. (American), all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Natural is also requesting a determination that such facilities will be exempt from the Commission's jurisdiction following their transfer to American. Natural notes that American is not an affiliate. Natural states that the approximately 49 miles of pipe being sold varies in diameter from 3 to 16 inches. According to Natural, approximately 39 miles of this pipe has been certificated, while the remainder is not certificated. Natural notes that there is one non-certificated field booster station also being sold. Natural contends that American purchased the processing plant from Natural pursuant to a Purchase and Sale Agreement dated December 30, 1996 (Agreement). According to Natural, the Agreement also provides for the sale and transfer of the Residue Lateral and the Gathering Facilities to American.

Natural states that the Buffalo Wallow and Gageby Creek laterals operate at approximately 350 psig. Gas from these laterals is compressed by Booster Station 91 prior to being processed at Purification Plant No. 163 (PP163), which is the processing plant that Natural sold to American on December 30, 1996.² Gas from the Washita Creek lateral enters PP163 downstream of Booster Station 91 and, therefore, must

¹ The Residue Lateral is located downstream of a processing plant owned by American, while the Gathering Facilities are located upstream of the processing plant.

² Natural contends that such plants are non-jurisdictional, and this plant was never certificated.

operate at approximately 680 psig. The Residue Lateral operates at approximately 650 psig and free-flows into Natural's Oklahoma Extension in Wheeler County, Texas, which is a part of Natural's Amarillo Mainline System.

Natural notes that pursuant to prior rate cases filings, the Residue Lateral and the Gathering Facilities have been classified for rate purposes as transmission facilities, and Natural charges no separate gathering rate for services provided by means of the facilities. Therefore, Natural claims that there is no requirement to make an NGA Section 4 filing for "termination of services." Natural notes that the purchase price for all of the facilities is \$4,000,000. American paid a total of \$3,200,000 to Natural on December 30, 1996. The remaining \$800,000 will be paid to Natural when ownership of the Residue Lateral and the Gathering Facilities is transferred to American. According to Natural, the net book value of the certificated facilities was approximately \$362,574 as of September 1, 1997.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make a protest with reference to said application should, on or before November 7, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., 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.

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 Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission 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 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 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 Applicant to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-28107 Filed 10-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. ER97-3401-001]

Northern States Power Company (Minnesota) and Northern States Power Company (Wisconsin); Notice of Filing

October 17, 1997.

Take notice that on August 27, 1997, Northern States Power Company tendered for filing its compliance filing in the above-referenced docket.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before October 29, 1997. 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. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-28042 Filed 10-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP90-2158-004]

Northwest Pipeline Corporation; Notice of Application To Amend Order

October 17, 1997.

Take notice that on October 10, 1997, Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest), 295 Chipeta Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, filed in Docket No. CP90-2158-004, an application under Sections 7 (b) and (c) of the Natural Gas