

issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, indorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of the applicant, and compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of High Island's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is December 29, 1997. Copies of the full text of the order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. MT98-5-000]

#### Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc.; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

December 10, 1997.

Take notice that on December 5, 1997, Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc. (MIT) tendered for filing in its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets to become effective January 1, 1998:

Fourth Revised Sheet No. 148

Third Revised Sheet No. 149

Third Revised Sheet No. 150

MIT states that the purpose of the filing of the Revised Tariff Sheets is to update its tariff to reflect certain recent changes related to the offices and personnel of its marketing affiliate.

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, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests should be filed in accordance with Section 154.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests should be filed in accordance with 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. 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 in the Public Reference Room.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-27-002]

#### Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Application to Amend Certificate

December 10, 1997.

Take notice that on November 12, 1997, as supplemented on December 5, 1997, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural), located at 701 East 22nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148, filed in Docket No. CP96-27-002 an Application to Amend Certificate (Amendment) pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA).<sup>1</sup> The certificate authority in this docket was issued pursuant to the Preliminary Determination issued on August 1, 1996 (76 FERC 61,142) and the Order Issuing Certificate issued on August 1, 1997 (80 FERC 61,147). The details of Natural's proposal are more fully set forth in its Amendment which is on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

The above referenced Commission Orders authorized the expansion of Natural's Amarillo Mainline by 345 MMcf/d to help serve 525 MMcf/d of new load expected to come on-line at Harper, Iowa, as of November 1, 1998. The Commission's Orders recognized that the difference between the expected new load and the amount of new capacity to be constructed would be provided by capacity to be turned back by MidCon Gas Services Corporation (MidCon Gas). Now, Natural has gotten an additional 120 MMcf/d of turned back capacity and expects to get 110 MMcf/d more before the 520 MMcf/d of new load comes on-line.

The Amendment notes, first, that the new load has been reduced to 520

MMcf/d because one of the shippers has been unable to obtain upstream capacity. However, the primary purpose of the Amendment is to reduce the amount of new capacity to be built to help serve the 520 MMcf/d of new load. Natural requests that two specific expansion levels be authorized, in lieu of the 345 MMcf/d level. They are 220 MMcf/d (estimated to cost \$55.1 million) and 110 MMcf/d (estimated to cost \$23.7 million).

The 9,000 horsepower of additional compression at Station 110 in Henry County, Illinois and the Mississippi River crossing, already approved in the previous orders, will still be used. The Amendment will reduce the number of miles of new 36-inch loop line that will be constructed. As originally certificated, the project required 85.7 miles of new pipeline looping in various segments. The 220 case will reduce that to 34.8 miles. The 110 case will reduce it to 4.1 miles. In both cases, the new loop line will be constructed in right-of-way that was approved in the previous orders. The only changes will be the locations of the necessary crossover points, where the new loop line and, in the 110 case, the Mississippi River crossing will be interconnected with existing facilities of the Amarillo Mainline.

Natural states that it will actually construct the facilities for only one of the two new expansion levels, depending on the total amount of existing capacity that is actually available to help serve the new load. The Amendment states that no significant environmental issues are presented, because the lower expansion levels will result from a shortening of the loop line mileage previously authorized in this docket. A continuation of rolled-in rate treatment is said to be warranted, because each of the two new expansion levels will have only a minimal impact on Natural's existing rates.

Any person desiring to be heard or making any protest with reference to said Amendment should on or before December 31, 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. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide

<sup>1</sup> Natural's Amendment was incomplete until the supplement was filed on December 5, 1997.