

transmission lines between the Storage Project compression facilities and the meter station at the Storage Project delivery point to Northwest Pipeline Corporation's (Northwest) transmission system;

- upgrade the existing meter station at the Storage Project delivery point by replacing four turbine meter modules with high-capacity meter modules and replacing the existing filter separator with new filter-separation equipment and replacing the existing 12-inch tap valve on Northwest's 26-inch mainline with a 24-inch tap valve; and
- replace and upgrade the existing dehydration units and make miscellaneous station piping modifications to integrate existing and proposed compression and dehydration facilities.

Puget Sound also requests abandonment authorization for the facilities being replaced by upgraded facilities. These facilities are: the meter modules, filter-separator and tap valve at the Jackson Prairie Meter Station and the dehydration contactors, regeneration skids and appurtenances at the Jackson Prairie compressor/dehydrator complex.

Puget Sound states that the estimated total cost for the proposed expansion of the Storage Project is approximately \$30.2 million, including the cost of existing facilities and cushion gas previously authorized and utilized for testing of the Zone 9 Reservoir. It is stated that the costs will be shared equally among the three owners in the Storage Project—Puget Sound, Northwest, and the Washington Water Power Company (Water Power).

Puget Sound states that each of the three owners is entitled to one-third of the proposed expanded capabilities of the Storage Project. It is stated that the rights of each owner to utilize the Storage Project are specified in an updated Gas Storage Project Agreement, as amended. Further, it is proposed that Puget Sound and Water Power have the right to utilize their respective shares of the Storage Project directly, instead of indirectly via storage service agreements with Northwest as is now the case. Accordingly, in a companion application, Northwest will seek approval to abandon certain existing storage services it provides for Puget Sound and Water Power.

It is stated that Puget Sound and Water Power each intend to utilize its share of the increased Storage Project

capacity and deliverability in its local distribution operations to help satisfy growing service requirements in its market area. Puget Sound states that Northwest, in its companion application, intends to utilize its share of the increased storage capacity and deliverability for its system balancing requirements and will commensurately reduce its existing contract storage from Questar Pipeline Corporation's Basin Storage Project.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said amendment should on or before March 26, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 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 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 with further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, or if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed certificate and 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 Puget Sound to appear or be represented at the hearing.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-153-004]

Southern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Clarification

March 6, 1998.

On March 2, 1998, the Commission issued a notice denying motions by GASP/Citizens Opposing North Alabama Pipeline Project (GAS/CONAPP), Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc., and Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District for an extension of time for filing protests and interventions in the above-docketed proceeding.

The March 2 notice stated that an extension was unnecessary in this proceeding because all intervenors in the original proceeding (Docket No. CP96-153-000, et al.) were considered to be intervenors in the present proceeding without further action on their part and that persons who subsequently determined they had an interest in this proceeding could file motions to intervene out-of-time.

The notice further stated that anyone wishing to file comments or protests on supplemental filings to be made by Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern) could do so in a timely manner. On February 27, 1998 and March 5, 1998, Southern supplemented its application with additional environmental information. The Commission herein clarifies the March 2, 1998 notice that anyone who wishes to file comments or protests based on these supplemental filings by Southern should do so on or before March 20, 1998. As indicated in the notice of March 2, 1998, comments may also be filed during the comment period after the issuance the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Document.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

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