

Section 252(d) of EPCA and section 9(a) of the Voluntary Agreement require the Department's approval before the proposed amendments can be adopted. Those sections preclude the Department from approving the amendments until it receives the advice of the Federal Trade Commission. On July 21, 1998, the Federal Trade Commission informed the Department that it had no objection to the Department's approval of the proposed amendments.

As you note in your letter, the Department participated in the development of the proposed amendments. Our role has been to ensure that the Voluntary Agreement cannot be used by participating oil companies to collude on prices. The Voluntary Agreement and the proposed amendments provide the necessary assurances to permit the Voluntary Agreement participants to proceed with planned meetings and begin assisting the IEA in the development of a coordinated drawdown plan. The Department hereby approves the proposed amendments. Division staff will participate with the FTC in the development of additional amendments, as needed.

The Department will not adopt the proposed amendments until twenty days after you publish a notice of our intention to adopt them. This procedure is in accordance with Section 11(b) of the Voluntary Agreement.

(5) Letter of the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, to the Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division, dated July 21, 1998:

The Department of Energy recently requested that you approve the attached amendments to the Voluntary Agreement and Plan of Action to Implement the International Energy Program ("Voluntary Agreement"). The Voluntary Agreement requires that the Commission consult with you before your approval.

The proposed amendments to the Voluntary Agreement implement changes recently enacted by Public Law 105-177 to Section 252 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The Administration sought the changes to Section 252 to enable U.S. oil companies to advise the International Energy Agency ("IEA") on the coordinated drawdown of government-owned or government-controlled oil stocks.

The Commission has no objection to your approving the proposed amendments. We note, however, that the proposed amendments do not contain details of how U.S. oil companies will interact with each other and with the IEA in fulfilling the goal of the recently amended legislation. Our staff has informed us that these details will be developed during industry meetings this fall and will be incorporated in future amendments to the Voluntary Agreement.

By direction of the Commission.

(6) Letter of the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs to the General Counsel of the Department of Energy, dated July 24, 1998:

I am responding to your July 7 letter requesting comments on proposed

amendments to the "Voluntary Agreement and Plan of Action to Implement the International Energy Program."

The Department of State supports the proposed amendments to the Voluntary Agreement. We believe the amendments to implement the recently enacted changes to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act should facilitate U.S. oil company participation in the International Energy Agency's oil crisis emergency response activities. Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed amendments.

cc: The Honorable Joel I. Klein, Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division. The Honorable Robert Pitofsky, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-355-002]

Chandeleur Pipe Line Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

July 29, 1998.

Take notice that on July 27, 1998, Chandeleur Pipe Line Company (Chandeleur) tendered for re-filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, revised tariff sheets to be effective August 1, 1998.

Chandeleur states that Substitute Second Revised Sheet No. 43 is resubmitted to correct its length of term under the capacity release provision to 5 years, as accepted by the Commission May 7, 1997 on its First Revised Sheet No. 43 under General Terms and Conditions, Section 7.8.

Chandeleur states that Third Revised Sheet No. 69A is resubmitted to correct the sheet number, which was previously submitted in error, as First Revised Sheet No. 69A.

Chandeleur states that it is serving copies of the filing to its customers, State Commissions and interested parties.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in 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 proceedings. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public

inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-679-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

July 29, 1998.

Take notice that on July 21, 1998, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-0146, filed in Docket No. CP98-679-000, a request pursuant to Section 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.211) for authorization to construct a new delivery point to Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. (CGV), in Prince George County, Virginia, under Columbia's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-76-000, pursuant to 18 CFR Part 157, Subpart F of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Columbia requests authorization to construct and operate a new point of delivery for firm transportation service and will provide the service pursuant to Columbia's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP86-240-000 under existing rate schedules and within certificated entitlements.

Columbia states that the estimated quantities of natural gas to be delivered at the new delivery point would be 6,000 Dth per day and 2,190,000 Dth annually. Columbia indicates that CGV requested the new delivery point to serve Chaparral Steel, an industrial customer.

It is stated that the estimated cost to construct the new delivery point is \$45,800, and that CGV would reimburse Columbia 100% of the total actual cost of the proposed construction.

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) 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