

or protests, as set forth above, is January 20, 1999.

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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-34618 Filed 12-30-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-185-000]

#### CNG Transmission Corporation, Notice of Tariff Filing

December 24, 1998.

Take notice that on December 17, 1998, CNG Transmission Corporation (CNG), tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets, with an effective date of January 1, 1999:

Nineteenth Revised Sheet No. 31  
 Forty Third Revised Sheet No. 32  
 Forty Third Revised Sheet No. 33  
 Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 34  
 Nineteenth Revised Sheet No. 35  
 Fifth Revised Sheet No. 37

CNG states that the purpose of this filing is to voluntarily reduce CNG's Rate Schedule FT, IT, MCS, GSS, and GSS II rates consistent with Appendix A of the August 31, 1998, Stipulation and Agreement (Stipulation) filed in Docket No. RP97-406 and approved by the Commission on November 24, 1998. Such voluntary reduction will serve the public interest by lowering costs to CNG's customers, which serves to lessen the collection of amounts that will ultimately be refunded under the terms of the above Stipulation.

CNG states that copies of its filing have been mailed to its customers and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must 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 proceedings. 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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-34590 Filed 12-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-546-000]

#### Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation RIPX Project

December 23, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) in the above-referenced docket. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The purpose of the proposed project is to abandon the Derricks Creek Storage Field in its entirety and offset any reductions in working gas capacity and deliverability by facility construction at the Ripley Storage Field. Columbia proposes to increase the certificated capacity at Ripley Storage Field by 0.8 billion cubic feet (Bcf). Columbia must also take immediate action at the Derricks Creek Storage Field to comply with a U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Facilities Order.

Specifically, the EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the abandonment of the Derricks Creek Storage Field in Kanawha County, West Virginia and the construction and operation of Columbia's proposed pipeline facilities and modifications at the Ripley Storage Field in Jackson County, West Virginia including:

- Abandonment in place of the Derricks Creek Storage Field in its entirety consisting of 13.1 miles of various diameter pipeline and 20 active storage wells;
- Construction of approximately 3.5 miles of various diameter storage pipeline, drilling six new storage wells, and improving the deliverability of nine existing wells at the Ripley Storage Field;
- Increase the capacity of the Ripley Storage Field by 0.8 Bcf of gas;
- Conversion of two observation wells to active injection/withdrawal wells and conversion of three very low performance wells to observation wells in the Ripley Storage Field;
- Abandonment by sale of up to 5.4 Bcf of base gas within the two storage fields; and
- Performing various well pipeline installations and replacements.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your comments to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one of those copies for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch II, PR-11.2;
- Reference Docket No. CP98-546-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before January 28, 1999.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make