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

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-162-000]

#### Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

January 28, 1999.

Take notice that on January 19, 1999, Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership (Great Lakes), One Woodward Avenue, Suite 1600, Detroit, Michigan 48226, filed in Docket No. CP99-162-000 a request pursuant to Sections 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 and operate a tap, a meter station, approximately 1.6 miles of 16-inch pipe (to connect the tap and meter station), and appurtenant facilities to establish a delivery point (the China Township Delivery point) for service to The Detroit Edison Company (Detroit Edison), a new end-use shipper on its system, in St. Clair County, Michigan, under the blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP90-2053-000, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Great Lakes states that the proposed tap will consist of a below-grade 16-inch tap off of its mainline loop (the 200 line), a below-grade valve, a riser, and above-grade manual valve operator, and interconnecting piping. Great Lakes notes that permanent fencing will enclose the above-grade facilities. Great Lakes proposes to construct and operate an above-grade, 8-inch meter station (which will consist of a single 8-inch meter run and turbine meter, a pressure regulator, gas heater, and appurtenant facilities) adjacent to the location where Detroit Edison will house three new gas-fired 72 megawatt generating units.

According to Great Lakes once the proposed facilities are completed, they will enable Detroit Edison to receive gas to fuel three new gas-fired peak load electric generating units, which will be capable of producing a total of 216 megawatts of electricity per hour. Great Lakes contends that Detroit Edison will use this power to increase reserve capacity levels, which will thereby

alleviate potential shortfalls in meeting its peak power requirements. Great Lakes claims that Detroit Edison will require transportation service for these three units as of May 1, 1999, without service by this date the units will not be available to generate the power required under peak load conditions.

According to Great Lakes, SEMCO Gas Company (SEMCO), a shipper on Great Lakes' system, currently provides retail gas distribution service in this area. Great Lakes states that SEMCO provides Detroit Edison with minimal gas volumes at the Belle River location and that those volumes are not associated with the generation of power. According to Great Lakes the Detroit Edison's base load power generation at the Belle River location is coal-fired. Thus, Great Lakes alleges that the service which it will provide to Detroit Edison is for new gas-fired generating facilities, which will not displace any service presently provided by SEMCO to Detroit Edison. Great Lakes states that Detroit Edison executed a precedent agreement providing for deliveries of up to 3,384 dth per hour.

Great Lakes states that Detroit Edison will acquire its own natural supplies and utilize the seller's existing transportation service on Great Lakes' system upstream of the proposed line tap, or utilize a backhaul transportation service on Great Lakes' mainline, to receive gas at the delivery point. Therefore, Great Lakes states that it will be able to provide the service without impacting upon its system-wide peak day and annual deliveries. According to Great Lakes, the transportation of gas for Detroit Edison's account will occur under Rate Schedule FT of its FERC Gas Tariff. Great Lakes claims that the parties will execute a ten-year firm transportation agreement under Rate Schedule FT. Great Lakes estimates that the cost of constructing the new facilities will be approximately \$2.3 million.

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) a 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 filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for

authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-2393 Filed 2-1-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96-178-008, CP96-809-007, and CP97-238-008]

#### Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.; Notice of Amendment

January 27, 1999.

Take notice that on January 22, 1999, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (Maritimes), filed in Docket Nos. CP96-178-008, CP96-809-007, and CP97-238-008, an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act for an amendment to the certificates previously issued to Maritimes to construct, install, own, operate, and maintain the Maritimes Phase I and Phase II facilities from Dracut, Massachusetts to a point at the international border between the United States and Canada near Woodland, Maine. Maritimes's proposal is more fully set forth in the application for amendment which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Maritimes is a limited liability company, organized and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware, Maritimes' members are M&N Management Company, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Duke Energy Corporation; Westcoast Energy (U.S.) Inc., an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Westcoast Energy, Inc.; Mobil Midstream Natural Gas Investments Inc., an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Mobil Corporation; and Scotia Power U.S., Ltd., an indirect, wholly subsidiary of NS Power Holdings, Inc.

Maritimes requests that its certificates be amended as they apply to Phases I and II service:

- (1) To phase the in-service date of certain of its lateral line facilities;
- (2) To defer, subject to further market commitments, certain other laterals;
- (3) To eliminate one compressor unit at the Baileyville, Maine compressor station;
- (4) To install one compressor unit at Richmond, Maine on a back up basis;
- (5) To uprate each of the three compressor units to be installed (two at Richmond, one at Baileyville) to 8311

horsepower (HP) to reflect the manufacturer's current rating;

(6) To construct, install and operate minor delivery facilities, including about 250 feet of 10-inch diameter pipeline in Haverhill, Massachusetts;

(7) To revise its initial rates to reflect changed cost estimates and revised billing determinants;

(8) To revise certain of its initial tariff sheets, including those tariff sheets addressing creditworthiness standards;

(9) To the extent authorization is required, to implement certain non-conforming provisions in its executed service and backstop agreements that differ from the *pro forma* service agreements in Maritimes' tariff.

Maritimes states that as markets in Maine, Massachusetts, and Canada are changing, there have been changes in the contracts between Maritimes and its shippers. Maritimes has included in its amendment its new agreements, totaling 360,575 Dth/d, including backstop arrangements for 20 years equal to 360,000 Dth/d of firm capacity.

Maritimes says that it is fully contracted under these executed service and backstop agreements. Maritimes notes that there are some provisions in the service and backstop agreements reached with the shippers that deviate from its tariff and asks that the Commission, to the extent required, grant authorization for such deviations.

Maritimes says that market changes have led to a proposed phasing of the construction of Maritimes' laterals. Thus, Maritimes proposes to defer construction of one of the originally proposed Phase II laterals—the Bucksport lateral—with the in-service date to be within two years of the date of the order approving the amendment, subject to the receipt of firm service agreements. Also, Maritimes proposes to defer other laterals proposed in the original Phase II application, subject to obtaining additional market commitments.

Maritimes proposes to eliminate one compressor unit at Baileyville, Maine; to install one of the compressor units at Richmond, Maine on a back up basis; and to uprate the three compressor units to be installed to 8,311 HP to reflect current manufacturer ratings. Maritimes proposes to construct other minor delivery facilities. In particular, Maritimes proposes the construction and operation of the Haverhill Spur and the Essex Gas Company meter station located near Haverhill. The Haverhill Spur will be about 250 feet of 10-inch diameter pipeline located in an area currently dedicated to natural gas facility use. Also, Maritimes proposes to install and operate a new meter to be

wholly located within the already approved Dracut, Massachusetts meter station site as a new delivery point for Boston Gas Company.

Maritimes proposes to revise its initial rates to reflect the increased cost of its mainline facilities and revised billing determinants. Maritimes says that these increased costs are due to the receipt of construction contract bids, which reflect cost increases related to schedule extensions, environmental agency requirements, cathodic protection, material transportation, and wage increases; costs associated with reroutes and route refinements; and additional mainline pipeline mileage of 3.3 miles. The revised billing determinants reflect the firm contractual commitments of 360,575 Dth/d.

The initial rates for mainline service under Rate Schedule NM365 are proposed to be \$0.715 per Dth (on a 100% load factor basis). This is based on a total gas plant of \$619.5 million and an annual cost allocation to Rate Schedule MN365 of about \$94.1 million and a modified/levelized depreciation method for the first four years of operation. Also, \$10.3 million has been allocated to interruptible mainline service under Rate Schedule MNIT. Rates for other mainline services are derivative of the Rate Schedule MN365 rate.

Maritimes also proposes incremental rates for three laterals (Newington, New Hampshire, Westbrook, Maine, and Haverhill) under Rate Schedule MNLFT, the approval of which is pending in Docket No. CP98-797-000.<sup>1</sup> A total gas plant of \$6.9 million is proposed to be allocated incrementally among the above three laterals as more fully set forth in Exhibit P of Maritimes' application.

Maritimes also proposes certain amendments to its tariff. It proposes to revise its creditworthiness provisions to reflect provisions typical of other project-financed pipelines. Also, in order to promote seamless service, Maritimes proposes an agency arrangement reflected in its tariff.

Any person desiring to be heard or making any protest with reference to said amendment should on or before February 12, 1999, 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)

<sup>1</sup> In Docket No. CP98-797-000, Maritimes is proposing another lateral near Veazie, Maine with a cost of \$5.6 million that is also proposed to be incrementally priced under Rate Schedule MNLFT.

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 protests provide copies of their protests to the party or person to whom the protests are directed. 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.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents issued by the Commission, filed by the applicant, or filed by all other intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order.

However, an intervenor must serve copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as filing an original and 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of such comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will not be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents, and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission, and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a Federal court. The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

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 NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on these applications if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is 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 Maritimes to appear or be represented at the hearing.

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

*Acting Secretary*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-161-000]

#### Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Application

January 28, 1999.

Take notice that on January 19, 1999, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural), 747 East 22nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148, filed in Docket No. CP99-161-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act, for permission and approval to abandon by sale to MidCon Gas Products Corp. (MGP), a non-jurisdictional gathering affiliate, certain certificated facilities located in Carson, Gray, Hutchinson, Moore and Roberts Counties, Texas, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Natural states that the facilities for which it is seeking abandonment authority are located in two separate gathering areas—the Panhandle Gathering Area and the Quinduno Gathering Area. Natural states that it requests permission to abandon from the Panhandle Gathering Area, nine compressor units located at Compressor Station 112 in Moore County, Texas, totaling 11,250 horsepower; and Booster Stations 52 and 53, both located in Carson County, Texas, each housing one 660 horsepower compressor unit, for a total of 1,320 horsepower. Also, Natural states that it requests permission to abandon from the Quinduno Gathering Area, 37 miles of pipe ranging from 6-inches to 16-inches in diameter, six compressor units at Booster Station 149 and twelve wellhead meters.

Natural states that all of the facilities, included certificated and non-certificated facilities, in the Panhandle Gathering Area and the Quinduno Gathering Area comprise Natural's West Panhandle Gathering System (WPGS).

Natural states that the WPGS consists of 527 miles of pipe (main trunklines and laterals) ranging in diameter from 2 inches to 24 inches, compression, field booster stations, meters, taps and appurtenant facilities. It is stated that due to the fact that Natural no longer provides a bundled sales service, there is no need for Natural to purchase gas along the WPGS for its system supply. Therefore, Natural is seeking in the subject filing, to abandon by sale to MGP, the certificated laterals, compression, field booster stations and associated meters and equipment that are located in the WPGS.

Natural states that it intends to transfer the entire WPGS to MGP. In addition, Natural states that it will sell the WPGS to MGP at its net book value. Natural states that as of September 30, 1998, the net book value of the certificated facilities was \$0 and the net book value of the non-certificated facilities was \$7.6 million.

Natural states that there is one firm transportation agreement under Rate Schedule FTS with a primary receipt point in the WPGS that will need to be terminated in connected with the proposed sale to MGP. Natural states that the shipper is KN Marketing, Inc. (KNM), an affiliate of Natural. Natural further states that it has been transporting up to 70,000 MMBtu per day for KNM under the agreement and will continue to provide such service until the facilities are transferred to MGP, at which time, MGP has agreed to provide the service for KNM.

Natural requests that the order state that the facilities in the WPGS that are being abandoned will be exempt from the Commission's jurisdiction after such facilities are transferred to MGP and operated by MGP as a non-jurisdictional gathering system.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before February 18, 1999, 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 the 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 without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene 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 Natural to appear or be represented at the hearing.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-2392 Filed 2-1-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER99-1459-000]

#### Northeast Utilities Service Company; Notice of Filing

January 27, 1999.

Take notice that on January 19, 1999, Northeast Utilities Service Company (NUSCO), tendered for filing, its response to the Commission's December 16, 1998, Order regarding the North American Electric Reliability Council Transmission Loading Relief (TLR) Procedures.

NUSCO states that because it has been informed by the New England Power Pool that the TLR Procedures would not apply to the NEPOOL Control area, the Northeast Utilities System Companies are not adopting the TLR Procedures.

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 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 and protests should be filed on or before February 8, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be