

sold since the settlement up to 15,000 Dth/day. This filing reflects the loss in firm transportation demand determinants of 3,257 Dth/day (and associated commodity determinants) for one Rate Schedule FTS customer.

Columbia states that copies of its filing have been mailed to all firm customers, interruptible customers, and affected 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, NE, Washington, DC 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. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

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

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. TM99-9-23-000]

#### Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Proposed Changes In FERC GAS Tariff

June 3, 1999.

Take notice that on May 28, 1999, Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (Eastern Shore) tendered for filing its annual Fuel Retention Adjustment filing pursuant to Section 31 of the General Terms and Conditions of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1.

Eastern Shore states that Section 31, "Fuel Retention Adjustment", specifies that, no less than thirty (30) days prior notice, Eastern Shore shall file with the Commission revised tariff sheets containing a re-determined Fuel Retention Percentage ("FRP") for affected transportation rate schedules to be effective July 1 of each year. Such FRP is designed to reimburse Eastern Shore for the cost of its Gas Required for Operations ("GRO") which consists of

(a) gas used for compressor fuel and (b) gas otherwise used, lost or unaccounted for, in its operations. Eastern Shore's FRP is calculated by determining the GRO quantities attributable to system-wide operations for the affected transportation rate schedules using the last twelve (12) month period for which actual data is available and then dividing such quantity by the corresponding twelve (12) month period.

Eastern Shore states that as shown in its filing, Eastern Shore's calculated FRP is .3% which is no change from the current FRP in effect. As there is no change in its FRP Eastern Shore has requested that the current tariff sheets remain in effect.

Eastern Shore states that copies of its filing has been mailed to all firm and interruptible customers and interested states 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, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with section 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. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

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

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-323-000]

#### Gas Research Institute; Annual Application

June 3, 1999.

Take notice that on June 1, 1999, Gas Research Institute (GRI) filed an application requesting advance approval of its 2000-2004 Five-Year Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Plan and 2000 RD&D Program,

and the funding of its RD&D activities for 2000, pursuant to the Natural Gas Act, Section 154.401(b) of the Commission's Regulations, and the Order Approving Settlement issued by the Commission on April 29, 1998 [83 FERC ¶ 61,093 (1998)]. GRI's application seeks to collect funds to support its year 2000 Jurisdictional RD&D Program through jurisdictional rates and charges during the twelve months ending December 31, 2000.

In its application, GRI proposes to incur program obligations of \$98 million in 2000, which GRI states is consistent with the April 29 Order. GRI states that \$72.6 million of the year 2000 program obligations will be for Core Projects and \$25.4 million for Non-Core Projects. Core projects are those benefiting predominately gas consumers and having one of the following as a basic objective: enhancing environmental quality; enhancing health and safety; lowering gas industry operating and maintenance costs; increasing gas system reliability or integrity; increasing gas supplies from emerging resources; or increasing efficiency. GRI projects total cash outlays to be \$135 million for year 2000 including Administrative and General Expenses of \$22.3 million.

Also consistent with the Commission's April 29 Order Approving Settlement, GRI proposes to fund the 2000 RD&D program by the use of the following surcharges: (1) a demand/reservation surcharge of 20 cents per Dth per Month for "high load factor customers"; (2) a demand/reservation surcharge of 12.3 cents per Dth per Month for "low load factor customers"; (3) a volumetric commodity/usage surcharge of .72 cents; and (4) a special "small customer" surcharge of 1.6 cents per Dth.

The Commission Staff will analyze GRI's application and prepare a Commission Staff Report. This Staff Report will be served on all parties and filed with the Commission as a public document by August 6, 1999. Comments on the Staff Report by all parties, except GRI, must be filed with the Commission on or before August 20, 1999. GRI's reply comments must be filed on or before August 27, 1999.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest GRI's application, except for GRI members and state regulatory commissions, who are automatically permitted to participate in the instant proceedings as intervenors, 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 214 and 211 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.214