This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

18 CFR Part 281


Termination of Rulemaking Proceedings

Issued October 18, 1999.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Proposed rulemaking: termination.

SUMMARY: The Commission has determined that it will take no further action in Docket Nos. RM79–15–001, RM89–67–000, RM91–1–000 and RM91–13–000, and therefore, the dockets may be closed.

Before Commissioners: James J. Hoecker, Chairman; Vicky A. Bailey, William L. Massey, Linda Breathitt, and Curt Hébert, Jr.

Proposed Rules for the Implementation of Section 401 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978

Docket No. RM 79–15–001

Hearing and Public Comment on the Proposed Rule of the Department of Energy Relating to Establishing Natural Gas Curtailment Priorities Interstate Pipelines

Docket No. RM 89–67–000

Chemical Manufacturers Association

Docket No. RM 91–1–000

Illinois Commerce Commission

Docket No. RM 91–13–000

Order Terminating Dockets

After reviewing the records in the captioned dockets, the Commission has determined that it will take no further action in these proceedings and therefore the dockets may be closed.

Docket Nos. RM79–15–001, RM80–67–000 and RM91–1–000

On July 29, 1981, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit issued an order1 1remanding in part a final rule issued by the Commission in Docket No. RM79–15–0002 pursuant to section 401 of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA). Specifically, the court remanded the Commission’s finding that it was bound, for purposes of establishing interstate pipelines’ natural gas curtailment priorities,3 by the Secretary of Agriculture’s decision to certify 100 percent of agricultural users’ current requirements as necessary for the maintenance of food and fiber production.

On July 17, 1980, in Docket No. RM80–67–000, the Commission issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to review natural gas curtailment priorities for interstate pipelines.

On June 19, 1990, in Docket No. RM91–1–000, Chemical Manufacturers Association (Chemical Manufacturers) filed a petition for review of natural gas pipeline curtailment procedures for the purpose of distinguishing between supply and capacity related curtailments.

Since there is no foreseeable need for curtailment of interstate pipelines’ natural gas supply deliveries, the Commission is not reviewing curtailment priorities at this time.4 Further, in the unlikely event of the need for pipeline supply curtailment arising in the foreseeable future, the records in these dockets would be stale for such purposes. Accordingly, the Commission is terminating these dockets.

Docket No. RM91–13–000

On April 30, 1991, in Docket No. RM91–13–000, the Illinois Commerce Commission filed a petition for a rulemaking to address the extent to which local distribution companies (LDCs) should be shielded from the passthrough of interstate pipelines’ take-or-pay obligations as a means of providing the LDCs with relief from bypass interstate pipelines. The Commission’s bypass policy has been developed in individual cases, and the issues raised in the petition have been largely resolved. Accordingly, the Commission is terminating rulemaking Docket No. RM–13–000.

The Commission Orders

The proceedings in Docket Nos. RM79–15–001, RM80–67–000, RM91–1–000, and RM91–13–000 are terminated.

By the Commission.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–27607 Filed 10–21–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 916

[SPATS No. KS–021–FOR]

Kansas Regulatory Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal of proposed amendment.

SUMMARY: OSM is announcing the withdrawal of an amendment to the Kansas regulatory program (Kansas program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Kansas proposed to condense and revise its previously approved revegetation success guidelines. Kansas intended to revise its program to be consistent with the corresponding Federal regulations and to improve operational efficiency. Kansas is
I. Background on the Oklahoma Program

On January 19, 1981, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Oklahoma program. You can find background information on the Oklahoma program, including the Secretary’s findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of approval in the January 19, 1981, Federal Register (46 FR 4902). You can find later actions concerning the Oklahoma program at 30 CFR 936.15 and 936.16.

II. Description of the Proposed Amendment

On February 17, 1994, Oklahoma proposed to amend its program by revising its Bond Release Guidelines (Administrative Record No. OK–959.01). We approved this amendment, with additional requirements, on January 10, 1995 (60 FR 2512). By letter dated September 30, 1999 (Administrative Record No. OK–984), Oklahoma sent us additional information and documentation to support the provisions in its previously proposed amendment that we had approved with additional requirements. In the January 10, 1995, Federal Register, we approved sections II., III., and V.B.2.d and e of Oklahoma’s bond release guidelines with the following required amendments codified at 30 CFR 936.16(c) and (g):

(c) By March 13, 1995, Oklahoma shall revise sections II.B and III.B in the Bond Release Guidelines to identify the method it will use in developing a phase III revegetation success standard for diversity on lands reclaimed for use as pastureland and grazing and

(g) By March 13, 1995, Oklahoma must submit, before Oklahoma allows the use of test plots as proposed at subsections V.B.2.d and V.B.2.e in the Bond Release Guidelines, evidence of consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service regarding the use of test plots as a statistically valid sampling technique for demonstrating success of productivity on prime farmlands.

In response to 30 CFR 936.16(c), Oklahoma provided a policy statement relating to its bond release guidelines for pastureland and grazing and. In response to 30 CFR 936.16(g), Oklahoma submitted evidence of consultation with the SCS regarding the use of test plots as a statistically valid sampling technique for demonstrating success of productivity on prime farmland. Following is a summary of the additional information and documentation.