

Application on the cost of facilities and rates, the tariff, and the pipeline route set forth in the Phase II Application. The Phase II Amendment adopts the 35-mile Wells to Westbrook, Maine segment of the Joint Facilities, including two laterals (the Westbrook Lateral and the Haverhill Lateral) and two meter stations as the proposed Phase II Facilities. The 24-inch pipeline previously proposed in the Phase II Application from Westbrook, Maine to the U.S.-Canada border for service starting in 1999 is unchanged by the Phase II Amendment. Also unchanged is Maritimes' proposal for a 1998 Phase II interim service which will include service to the Westbrook Lateral and the Cousins Island Lateral.

Maritimes states that its revised estimated cost is about \$387 million. Originally, its Phase II cost estimate was \$404 million. The cost estimate revisions are based on an allocation of its share of the Joint Facilities costs, and the revised estimated cost of its own facilities from Westbrook to the U.S.-Canada border. The revised estimate for the Westbrook to Canada segment is based on updated facilities cost information (primarily lower estimates of labor expenses), more environmental information and analysis, and pipeline route changes. The cost for the 1998 facilities decreased from \$63 million to \$61.8 million, while the cost for the 1999 facilities decreased from \$340.9 million to \$325.5 million.

The rates proposed by Maritimes have been revised to reflect Maritimes' new cost estimates. The initial rate for Maritimes' 365-day firm transportation for Phase II service from Canada starting in 1999 is now \$15.0858 per MMBtu; previously it was \$15.7551 per MMBtu.⁴ The calculation of the revised rates and charges is included in Exhibit P to the Phase II Amendment.

Maritimes states that minor tariff changes may be needed to coordinate matters such as measurement or quality specifications with PNGTS. To the extent necessary, such changes would be filed with the Commission. Other than the changes to the proposed rates, the proposed tariff, including rate schedules, and general terms and conditions remains unchanged from the supplemental tariff filing in Docket No. CP96-809-001.

Maritimes requests that the Commission issue a Preliminary Determination on Phase II by May 31,

1997, and a final certificate for Phase II by December 17, 1997.⁵

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said Amendment, or the supplemental tariff filing in Docket No. CP96-809-001, should, on or before April 15, 1997, 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 385.211 or 385.214) 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 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 Amendment if no petition 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 Amendment is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a petition 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 procedures herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Maritimes to appear or be represented at the hearing. Anyone who has already filed a motion to intervene in Docket No. CP96-809-000 need not file a motion to intervene again with the Commission.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-8072 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. RP96-290-000]

Michigan Gas Storage Company; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

March 25, 1997.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding on April 3, 1997. The conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., 20426, in a conference room to be designated. The purpose of the conference is to explore the possibility of settlement of the above-referenced docket.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined in 18 CFR 385.102(b) is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, contact Russell Mamone at (202) 208-0744 or Anja Clark at (202) 208-2034.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-8010 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP96-249-004]

Portland Natural Gas Transmission System; Notice of Amendment

March 25, 1997.

Take notice that on March 18, 1997, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS), 300 Friberg Parkway, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581-5039, filed in Docket No. CP96-249-004 an amendment pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act. This amendment reflects the effect of the Joint Facilities Application of Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (Maritimes) and PNGTS, initially filed with the Commission on February 10, 1997, and completed on March 18, 1997 in Docket No. CP97-238-000 (Joint Facilities Application)¹ on PNGTS's March 14, 1996, Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in Docket No. CP96-249-000, as amended in Docket No. CP96-249-003.

Prior to the March 18, 1997 submission in the Joint Facilities Application, two public conferences at the Commission were held and four letters from the Office of Pipeline Regulation (OPR) were issued requesting the information required to

⁴ Maritimes proposes that the 1998 interim Phase II service will be at negotiated rates.

⁵ The data response filed by Maritimes on March 20, 1997, citing the December 17, 1997, date is taken to be a further amendment of Maritimes' February 24, 1997, filing wherein August 31, 1997, was cited as the date that a final certificate was required.

¹ See Notice of Application for Docket No. CP97-238-000 issued on March 21, 1997.

constitute a complete filing. However, certain information which is needed to complete the processing of the Joint Facilities Application remains to be filed.² Complete and accurate filing of that information on the schedule stated in the joint applicants' March 18, 1997, filing is essential for the expeditious processing of the PNGTS project applications.

The Joint Facilities Application filed by Maritimes and PNGTS requests authorization to construct and operate approximately 99.8 miles of jointly-owned 30-inch O.D. pipeline and appurtenant facilities to accommodate natural gas volumes that would otherwise be transported through the same area by separate pipeline facilities. The Joint Facilities Application proposes joint facilities from Dracut, Massachusetts to Westbrook, Maine.

The instant amendment filed by PNGTS addresses the effects of the Joint Facilities Application on the cost of facilities and rates previously proposed by PNGTS. PNGTS states that it will file amendments to its tariff to reflect the Commission's directives with respect to Gas Industry Standards Board standards two to five months prior to placing its tariff into effect.

Based on its Case No. 2 proposed in Docket No. CP96-249-000, PNGTS states that its revised cost, after allocating its share of the joint facilities, is approximately \$302.9 million. The rates proposed by PNGTS have been revised to reflect PNGTS's allocated estimated cost of the joint facilities described in the Joint Facilities Application. PNGTS states that its rates will be leveled for an initial 20-year period and are based on the assumption that 80 percent of the cost of the facilities will be recovered through depreciation during the levelization period. PNGTS states that it will use a straight fixed-variable rate design for its firm service, and rates are based on a winter-day capacity design of 178,000 MMBtu per day. PNGTS does not propose to change the service offerings described in Docket No. CP96-249-003 which included firm transportation service (FT), interruptible transportation service (IT), and the possibility of negotiated rates. PNGTS states that winter period and off-peak services are available under the FT rate schedule.

PNGTS requests a supplemental preliminary determination no later than May 31, 1997, and a final certificate no later than August 31, 1997, in order to meet an in-service date of November 1, 1998.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said Amendment should, on or before April 15, 1997, 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 385.211 or 385.214) 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 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 Amendment if no petition 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 Amendment is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a petition 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 procedures herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for PNGTS to appear or be represented at the hearing. Anyone who has already filed a motion to intervene in Docket Nos. CP96-249-000 or CP96-249-003 need not file again with the Commission.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-8071 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. ER97-2031-000, et al.]

Cinergy Services, Inc., et al.; Electric Rate and Corporate Regulation Filings

March 24, 1997.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Cinergy Services, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-2031-000]

Take notice that on March 11, 1997, Cinergy Services, Inc. (Cinergy),

tendered for filing on behalf of its operating companies, The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company (CG&E) and PSI Energy, Inc. (PSI), an Interchange Agreement, dated March 1, 1997 between Cinergy, CG&E, PSI and IUC Power Services (IUC).

The Interchange Agreement provides for the following service between Cinergy and IUC:

1. Exhibit A—Power Sales by IUC
2. Exhibit B—Power Sales by Cinergy

Cinergy and IUC have requested an effective date of one day after this initial filing of the Interchange Agreement.

Copies of the filing were served on IUC Power Services, the Kentucky Public Service Commission, the Michigan Public Service Commission, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

2. Ohio Edison Company, Pennsylvania Power Company, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and Toledo Edison Company

[Docket No. EC97-5-000]

Take notice that on March 21, 1997, Ohio Edison Company, Pennsylvania Power Company, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and Toledo Edison Company (the Applicants) filed additional information in support of their November 8, 1996, merger application. The supplement is a competitive screen analysis as required by the guidelines in the Commission's merger policy statement, *Inquiry Concerning the Commission's Merger Policy Under the Federal Power Act; Policy Statement*, Order No. 592, 77 FERC ¶ 61,263 (1996). By letter order dated January 15, 1997, the Commission requested the Applicants to supply this information.

Applicants state that they have served their filing, including an electronic copy of the data used to develop the competitive screen analysis, on all intervenors.

Comment date: May 20, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

3. Western Resources, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-2032-000]

Take notice that on March 10, 1997, Western Resources, Inc., tendered for filing non-firm transmission agreements between Western Resources and Central Louisiana Electric Company, Inc. and TransCanada Power Corporation. Western Resources states that the purpose of the agreements is to permit

² See the March 21, 1997, OPR Director's letter to the joint applicants.