

may be filed, either a preliminary permit application or a development application (specify which type of application). A notice of intent must be served on the applicant(s) named in this public notice.

**Proposed Scope of Studies under Permit**—A preliminary permit, if issued, does not authorize construction. The term of the proposed preliminary permit would be 36 months. The work proposed under the preliminary permit would include economic analysis, preparation of preliminary engineering plans, and a study of environmental impacts. Based on the results of these studies, the Applicant would decide whether to proceed with the preparation of a development application to construct and operate the project.

**Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene**—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211 and .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

**Filing and Service of Responsive Documents**—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE COMPETING APPLICATION", "COMPETING APPLICATION", "PROTEST", "MOTION TO INTEREVEVE", as applicable, and the

Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary and an additional copy must be sent to Director, Division of Project Review, or at the above-mentioned address. A copy of any notice of intent, competing application or motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

**Agency Comments**—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM96-1-012, et al.]

#### Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines; Notice of Extension of Time

May 20, 1999.

On April 1, 1999, the pipelines listed in the Appendix, in compliance with the Commission's order issued

December 17, 1998,<sup>1</sup> in Docket No. RM96-1-012, filed reports detailing their level of compliance with Section 284.10(c)(2)(i) of the Commission's regulations.<sup>2</sup>

In Order No. 587-G, the Commission adopted section 284.10(c)(2)(i) of its regulations, which requires each interstate pipeline to enter into operational balancing agreements (OBAs) at all points of interconnection between its system and the system of another interstate or intrastate pipeline.<sup>3</sup> The December 17, 1998, order required each interstate pipeline to file, a statement as to how it has complied with the OBA requirement, by April 1, 1999.

The referenced pipelines state they have complied with the OBA requirement at some, but not all, of the interconnects on their systems, and request, or state they require, further time to negotiate and finalize the required OBA agreements at the remaining interconnects.

Upon consideration, notice is hereby given that the pipelines listed in the Appendix are granted a further extension of time to comply with 284.10(c)(2)(i) of the Commission's regulations until no later than June 30, 1999. On or before June 30, 1999, the pipelines listed herein must file a statement indicating whether they are in compliance with section 284.10(c)(2)(i) of the Commission's regulations, or if they are not in compliance, a detailed statement of the reasons they have been unable to execute the required OBAs. If any further extension is needed the pipeline should provide a detailed justification for the request.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

#### APPENDIX RM96-1-012, ET AL.

Company name	Docket No.
ANR Pipeline Company .....	RP98-285-002
Caprock Pipeline Company .....	RP98-303-002
Colorado Interstate Gas Company .....	RP98-251-005
Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation .....	RP98-255-001
Dauphin Island Gathering Partners .....	RP98-343-003
El Paso Natural Gas Company .....	RP98-311-001
Florida Gas Transmission Company .....	RP99-14-000
Garden Banks Pipeline, LLC .....	RP98-282-001
High Island Offshore System .....	RP98-245-003
KN Wattenberg Transmission, LLC .....	RP98-302-002
Kansas Pipeline Company .....	CP96-152-000
Mid Louisiana Gas Company .....	RP99-268-000
Mississippi Canyon Gas Pipeline, LLC .....	RP98-287-001
Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America .....	RP98-304-002
Norteno Pipeline Company .....	RP99-279-000
Northern Natural Gas Company .....	RP98-292-003

<sup>1</sup> Standards For Business Practices Of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines, 85 FERC ¶ 61,371 (1998).

<sup>2</sup> 18 CFR 284.10(c)(2)(i).

<sup>3</sup> Standards For Business Practices Of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines, Order No. 587-G, 63 FR

20072 (Apr. 23, 1998), III FERC Stats. & Regs. Regulations Preambles ¶ 31,062 (Apr. 16, 1998).

## APPENDIX RM96-1-012, ET AL.—Continued

Company name	Docket No.
Northwest Pipeline Corporation .....	RP98-257-003
Paiute Pipeline Company .....	RP98-321-001
Questar Pipeline Company .....	RP98-263-003
Reliant Energy Gas Transmission Co .....	RP98-339-001
Sea Robin Pipeline Co .....	RP99-252-001
Stingray Pipeline Company .....	RP98-307-002
Southern Natural Gas Company .....	RP99-253-002
Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company .....	RP97-60-011
Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation .....	RP98-314-003
TransColorado Gas Transmission .....	RP98-320-001
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation .....	RP98-344-004
U-T Offshore System .....	RP98-244-002
Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Co .....	RP98-312-004

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RM93-11-000]

**Revisions to Oil Pipeline Regulations Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 1992**

May 18, 1999.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Dept. of Energy.**ACTION:** Notice of annual change in the producer price index for finished goods, minus one percent.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is issuing the index that oil pipelines must apply to their July 1, 1998-June 30, 1999 rate ceiling levels to compute their rate ceiling levels for the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, in accordance with 18 CFR 342.3(d). This index, which is the percent change (expressed as a decimal) in the annual average Producer Price Index for Finished Goods from 1997 to 1998, minus one percent, is a negative 0.018346. Oil pipelines must multiply their July 1, 1998-June 30, 1999 rate ceiling levels by 0.981654 to compute their rate ceiling levels for the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Ulevich, Office of Pipeline Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0678.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission also provides all interested persons an opportunity to inspect or copy the contents of this document during normal business hours in the Public Reference Room at 888

First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS) provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission from November 14, 1994 to the present. CIPS can be accessed via Internet through FERC's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.fed.us>) using the CIPS Link or the Energy Information Online icon. Documents will be available on CIPS in ASCII and WordPerfect 6.1 format. User assistance is available at 202-208-2474 or by E-mail to [cips.master@ferc.fed.us](mailto:cips.master@ferc.fed.us).

This document is also available through the Commission's Records and Information Management System (RIMS), an electronic storage and retrieval system of documents submitted to and issued by the Commission after November 16, 1981. Documents from November 1995 to the present can be viewed and printed. RIMS is available in the Public Reference Room or remotely via Internet through FERC's Home Page using the RIMS link or the energy Information Online icon. User assistance is available at 202-208-2222, or by E-mail to [rims.master@ferc.fed.us](mailto:rims.master@ferc.fed.us).

Finally, the complete text on diskette in WordPerfect format may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, RVJ International, Inc. RVJ International, Inc. is located in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's regulations include a methodology for oil pipelines to change their rates through use of an index system that establishes ceiling levels for such rates. The index system as set forth at 18 CFR 342.3 is based on the annual change in the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods (PPI-FG), minus one percent. The regulations provide that each year the Commission will publish an index reflecting the final change in the PPI-FG, minus one percent, after the final PPI-FG is made

available by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in May of each calendar year.

The annual average PPI-FG index figure for 1997 was 131.8 and the annual average PPI-FG index figure for 1998 was 130.7.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the percent change (expressed as a decimal) in the annual average PPI-FG from 1997 to 1998, minus one percent, is a negative 0.018346.<sup>2</sup> Oil pipelines must multiply their July 1, 1998-June 30, 1999 rate ceiling levels by 0.981654<sup>3</sup> to compute their rate ceiling levels for the period July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000, in accordance with 18 CFR 342.3(d).

To obtain July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000 ceiling levels, pipelines must first calculate their ceiling levels for the January 1, 1995-June 30, 1995 index period, by multiplying their December 31, 1994 rates by 1.002175. Pipelines must then multiply those ceiling levels by 0.996415 to obtain the July 1, 1995-June 30, 1996 ceiling levels. Then, pipelines must multiply their July 1, 1995-June 30, 1996 ceiling levels by 1.009124 to obtain the July 1, 1996-June 30, 1997 ceiling levels, and multiply the July 1, 1996-June 30, 1997 ceiling levels by 1.016583 to obtain the July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998 ceiling levels. Pipelines then must multiply the July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998 ceiling levels by 0.993808 to obtain the July 1, 1998-June 30, 1999

<sup>1</sup> The final figure for the annual average PPI-FG is published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in mid-May of each year. This figure is publicly available from the Division of Industrial Prices and Price Indexes of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at (202) 606-7705, and is available in print in August in Table 1 of the annual data supplement to the BLS publication *Producer Price Index*. The PPI data are also available via the Internet. The Internet address is <http://www.fedstats.gov>. This site contains data from a number of government agencies; to obtain the BLS data, click on agencies, then click on Bureau of Labor Statistics, then click on data, Most Requested Series, scroll to Producer Price Indexes-Commodities (Finished Goods), for the latest available data.

<sup>2</sup>  $[130.7 - 131.8] / 131.8 = -0.008346 - .01 = -0.018346$ .

<sup>3</sup>  $1 + (-0.018346) = 0.981654$ .