

**§ 1206.158**

**30 CFR Ch. VII (7-1-14 Edition)**

(h) *Other transportation cost determinations.* Use this section when calculating transportation costs to establish value using a netback procedure or any other procedure that requires deduction of transportation costs.

[53 FR 1272, Jan. 15, 1988, as amended at 53 FR 45762, Nov. 14, 1988; 61 FR 5465, Feb. 12, 1996; 62 FR 65762, Dec. 16, 1997; 70 FR 11878, Mar. 10, 2005; 73 FR 15891, Mar. 26, 2008]

**§ 1206.158 Processing allowances—general.**

(a) Where the value of gas is determined pursuant to § 1206.153 of this subpart, a deduction shall be allowed for the reasonable actual costs of processing.

(b) Processing costs must be allocated among the gas plant products. A separate processing allowance must be determined for each gas plant product and processing plant relationship. Natural gas liquids (NGL's) shall be considered as one product.

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, the processing allowance shall not be applied against the value of the residue gas. Where there is no residue gas ONRR may designate an appropriate gas plant product against which no allowance may be applied.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, the processing allowance deduction on the basis of an individual product shall not exceed 66⅔ percent of the value of each gas plant product determined in accordance with § 1206.153 of this subpart (such value to be reduced first for any transportation allowances related to postprocessing transportation authorized by § 1206.156 of this subpart).

(3) Upon request of a lessee, ONRR may approve a processing allowance in excess of the limitation prescribed by paragraph (c)(2) of this section. The lessee must demonstrate that the processing costs incurred in excess of the limitation prescribed in paragraph (c)(2) of this section were reasonable, actual, and necessary. An application for exception (using Form ONRR-4393, Request to Exceed Regulatory Allowance Limitation) shall contain all relevant and supporting documentation for ONRR to make a determination. Under no circumstances shall the value

for royalty purposes of any gas plant product be reduced to zero.

(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, no processing cost deduction shall be allowed for the costs of placing lease products in marketable condition, including dehydration, separation, compression, or storage, even if those functions are performed off the lease or at a processing plant. Where gas is processed for the removal of acid gases, commonly referred to as "sweetening," no processing cost deduction shall be allowed for such costs unless the acid gases removed are further processed into a gas plant product. In such event, the lessee shall be eligible for a processing allowance as determined in accordance with this subpart. However, ONRR will not grant any processing allowance for processing lease production which is not royalty bearing.

(2)(i) If the lessee incurs extraordinary costs for processing gas production from a gas production operation, it may apply to ONRR for an allowance for those costs which shall be in addition to any other processing allowance to which the lessee is entitled pursuant to this section. Such an allowance may be granted only if the lessee can demonstrate that the costs are, by reference to standard industry conditions and practice, extraordinary, unusual, or unconventional.

(ii) Prior ONRR approval to continue an extraordinary processing cost allowance is not required. However, to retain the authority to deduct the allowance the lessee must report the deduction to ONRR in a form and manner prescribed by ONRR.

(e) If ONRR determines that a lessee has improperly determined a processing allowance authorized by this subpart, then the lessee must pay any additional royalties, plus interest determined under § 1218.54 of this chapter, or will be entitled to a credit with interest. If the lessee takes a deduction for processing on Form ONRR-2014 by improperly netting the allowance against the sales value of the gas plant products instead of reporting the allowance as a separate entry, ONRR

may assess a civil penalty under 30 CFR part 1241.

[53 FR 1272, Jan. 15, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 5466, Feb. 12, 1996; 64 FR 43288, Aug. 10, 1999; 73 FR 15891, Mar. 26, 2008]

**§ 1206.159 Determination of processing allowances.**

(a) *Arm's-length processing contracts.*

(1)(i) For processing costs incurred by a lessee under an arm's-length contract, the processing allowance shall be the reasonable actual costs incurred by the lessee for processing the gas under that contract, except as provided in paragraphs (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section, subject to monitoring, review, audit, and adjustment. The lessee shall have the burden of demonstrating that its contract is arm's-length. ONRR's prior approval is not required before a lessee may deduct costs incurred under an arm's-length contract. The lessee must claim a processing allowance by reporting it as a separate entry on the Form ONRR-2014.

(ii) In conducting reviews and audits, ONRR will examine whether the contract reflects more than the consideration actually transferred either directly or indirectly from the lessee to the processor for the processing. If the contract reflects more than the total consideration, then the ONRR may require that the processing allowance be determined in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(iii) If ONRR determines that the consideration paid pursuant to an arm's-length processing contract does not reflect the reasonable value of the processing because of misconduct by or between the contracting parties, or because the lessee otherwise has breached its duty to the lessor to market the production for the mutual benefit of the lessee and lessor, then ONRR shall require that the processing allowance be determined in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section. When ONRR determines that the value of the processing may be unreasonable, ONRR will notify the lessee and give the lessee an opportunity to provide written information justifying the lessee's processing costs.

(2) If an arm's-length processing contract includes more than one gas plant product and the processing costs at-

tributable to each product can be determined from the contract, then the processing costs for each gas plant product shall be determined in accordance with the contract. No allowance may be taken for the costs of processing lease production which is not royalty-bearing.

(3) If an arm's-length processing contract includes more than one gas plant product and the processing costs attributable to each product cannot be determined from the contract, the lessee shall propose an allocation procedure to ONRR. The lessee may use its proposed allocation procedure until ONRR issues its determination. The lessee shall submit all relevant data to support its proposal. ONRR shall then determine the processing allowance based upon the lessee's proposal and any additional information ONRR deems necessary. No processing allowance will be granted for the costs of processing lease production which is not royalty bearing. The lessee must submit the allocation proposal within 3 months of claiming the allocated deduction on Form ONRR-2014.

(4) Where the lessee's payments for processing under an arm's-length contract are not based on a dollar per unit basis, the lessee shall convert whatever consideration is paid to a dollar value equivalent for the purposes of this section.

(b) *Non-arm's-length or no contract.* (1) If a lessee has a non-arm's-length processing contract or has no contract, including those situations where the lessee performs processing for itself, the processing allowance will be based upon the lessee's reasonable actual costs as provided in this paragraph. All processing allowances deducted under a non-arm's-length or no-contract situation are subject to monitoring, review, audit, and adjustment. The lessee must claim a processing allowance by reflecting it as a separate entry on the Form ONRR-2014. When necessary or appropriate, ONRR may direct a lessee to modify its estimated or actual processing allowance.

(2) The processing allowance for non-arm's-length or no-contract situations shall be based upon the lessee's actual costs for processing during the reporting period, including operating and