DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Citation]

Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

Take notice that on September 6, 2013, Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia), 5151 San Felipe, Suite 2500, Houston, Texas 77056, filed in Docket No. CP13–542–000, a prior notice request pursuant to sections 157.205 and 157.216(b) of the Commission’s Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) as amended, requesting authorization to abandon five underperforming natural gas storage wells, the associated well lines, and appurtenances in Ashland and Richland Counties, Ohio; Jackson County, West Virginia; and Washington County, Pennsylvania, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The filing may also be viewed on the web at http://www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCONlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208–3676, or TTY, contact (202) 502–8659.

Specifically, at the Pavonia Storage Field in Ashland County, Ohio, Columbia proposes to abandon one storage well, the associated pipeline, and appurtenances. At the Weaver Storage Field in Richland County, Ohio, Columbia proposes to abandon two storage wells, the two associated pipelines, and appurtenances. At the Ripley Storage Field in Jackson County, West Virginia, Columbia proposes to abandon one storage well, the associated pipeline, and appurtenances. Finally, at the Donegal Storage Field in Washington County, Pennsylvania, Columbia proposes to abandon one storage well, the associated pipeline, and appurtenances.

Any questions concerning this application may be directed to Frederic J. George, Senior Counsel, Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC, PO Box 1273, Charleston, West Virginia 25325–1273, by telephone at (304) 357–2359 or by facsimile at (304) 357–3206.

Any person or the Commission’s staff may, within 60 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission’s Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205), a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefore, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the allowed time for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to section 7 of the NGA.

Pursuant to section 157.9 of the Commission’s rules, 18 CFR 157.9, within 90 days of this Notice the Commission staff will either: Complete its environmental assessment (EA) and place it into the Commission’s public record (eLibrary) for this proceeding, or issue a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review. If a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review is issued, it will indicate, among other milestones, the anticipated date for the Commission staff’s issuance of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) or EA for this proposal. The filing of the EA in the Commission’s public record for this proceeding or the issuance of a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review will serve to notify federal and state agencies of the timing for the completion of all necessary reviews, and the subsequent need to complete all federal authorizations within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff’s FEIS or EA.

Persons who wish to comment only on the environmental review of this project should submit an original and two copies of their comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Environmental commenter’s will be placed on the Commission’s environmental mailing list, will receive copies of the environmental documents, and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission’s environmental review process.

Environmental commenter’s will not be required to serve copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission’s final order.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the “eFiling” link at http://www.ferc.gov. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Western Area Power Administration

Parker-Davis Project—Rate Order No. WAPA–162

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.


SUMMARY: This action extends the existing Parker-Davis Project (P–DP) firm electric and transmission service formula rates through September 30, 2018. The existing Firm Electric and Transmission Service Rate Schedules PD–F7, PD–FT7, PD–FCT7, and PD–NFT7 were set to expire on September 30, 2013. These firm electric and transmission service rate schedules contain formula rates that are calculated annually using updated financial and sales data.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Darrick Moe, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005–6457, (602) 605–2453, email moe@wapa.gov, or Mr. Jack Murray, Rates Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005–6457, (602) 605–2442, email jmurray@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Delegation Order No. 00–037.00, effective December 6, 2001, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (Western); (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary of Energy; and (3) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The existing Rate Schedules PD–F7, PD–FT7, PD–FCT7, and PD–NFT7...
under Rate Order No. WAPA–138 ¹ were approved for a 5-year period beginning on October 1, 2008, and ending September 30, 2013.

Western proposed extending the current rate schedules pursuant to 10 CFR 903.23(a) under Rate Order No. WAPA–162. The notice of proposed extension was published in the Federal Register on June 11, 2013 (78 FR 35022). As allowed by 10 CFR 903.23(a), Western provided for a consultation and comment period, but did not conduct public information forums or public comment forums. The consultation and comment period ended on July 11, 2013.

Following review of Western’s proposal within the Department of Energy, I hereby approve Rate Order No. WAPA–162, which extends the existing Firm Electric and Transmission Service Rate Schedules PD–F7, PD–FT7, PD–FCT7, and PD–NFT7 through September 30, 2018. Rate Order No. WAPA–162 will be submitted to FERC for confirmation and approval on a final basis.

Daniel B. Poneman,
Deputy Secretary.

Deputy Secretary
Rate Order No. WAPA–162
In the Matter of: Western Area Power Administration Rate Extension for Parker-Davis Project Firm Electric and Transmission Service Formula Rate Schedules

Order Confirming and Approving an Extension of the Parker-Davis Project Firm Electric and Transmission Service Formula Rate Schedules

Section 302 of the Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152) transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy the power marketing functions of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation under the Reclamation Act of 1902 (ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388), as amended and supplemented by subsequent laws, particularly section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h(c)), and other acts that specifically apply to the project involved.

By Delegation Order No. 00–037.00, effective December 6, 2001, the Secretary of Energy delegated (1) the authority to develop power and transmission rates to the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (Western); (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary of Energy; and (3) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This extension is issued pursuant to the Delegation Order and DOE rate extension procedures at 10 CFR 903.23(a).

Background

On February 27, 2009, in Docket No. EF08–5041–000 at 126 FERC ¶ 61,157, FERC issued an order confirming, approving, and placing into effect on a final basis the Firm Electric and Transmission Service Rate Schedules PD–F7, PD–FT7, PD–FCT7, and PD–NFT7 for the Parker-Davis Project (P–DP). The firm electric and transmission service rate schedules under Rate Order No. WAPA–138 were approved for 5 years beginning October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2013.

On June 11, 2013, pursuant to 10 CFR 903.23(a), Western published a notice in the Federal Register proposing to extend Rate Schedules PD–F7, PD–FT7, PD–FCT7, and PD–NFT7, as Rate Order No. WAPA–162 (78 FR 35022). Western provided for a consultation and comment period, but did not conduct public information forums or public comment forums. The consultation and comment period ended on July 11, 2013.

Comments

All formally submitted comments have been considered in preparing this Rate Order. A written comment was received during the consultation and comment period from the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Arizona. The comment and response regarding the rate extension, paraphrased for brevity when not affecting the meaning of the statement, is discussed below.

Comment: The commenter wrote that it supports the proposal to extend the existing firm electric and transmission service formula rates. Further, the commenter expressed its belief that the proposal is evidence of a successful relationship between Western and the P–DP customers.

Response: Western appreciates the commenter’s feedback.

Discussion

On September 30, 2013, the existing Firm Electric and Transmission Service Rate Schedules PD–F7, PD–FT7, PD–FCT7, and PD–NFT7 will expire. This makes it necessary to extend the existing rate schedules under 10 CFR 903.23(a). The existing firm electric and transmission service formula rates provide adequate revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expense, and to repay investment within the cost recovery criteria set forth in DOE Order RA 6120.2. Rate Order No. WAPA–162 extends the existing rate schedules through September 30, 2018, thereby continuing to ensure project repayment within the cost recovery criteria.

Order

In view of the foregoing and under the authority delegated to me, I hereby extend from October 1, 2013, and ending September 30, 2018, the existing Firm Electric and Transmission Service Rate Schedules PD–F7, PD–FT7, PD–FCT7, and PD–NFT7 on an interim basis for service for the Parker-Davis Project. The existing Firm Electric and Transmission Service Rate Schedules PD–F7, PD–FT7, PD–FCT7, and PD–NFT7 for service for the Parker-Davis Project, shall remain in effect pending FERC confirmation and approval of their extension or substitute rates on a final basis through September 30, 2018.

Daniel B. Poneman,
Deputy Secretary.

¹ FERC confirmed and approved the rate schedules on a final basis through delegated order on February 27, 2009, in Docket No. EF08–5041–000 (126 FERC ¶ 61,157).