

proposed station at Defiance, Ohio will remain unchanged (two 15,000 HP units). However, Independence now proposes two downstream compressor stations, each of which would have a 15,000 HP unit. One station would be located in Wayne County, Ohio (the Canaan Station) and the other would be located in Clarion County, Pennsylvania (the Porter Station).

Independence now proposes 3 meter stations. Independence had originally proposed stations at the western and eastern termini of the system, one at Defiance, Ohio and one at Leidy, Pennsylvania. Independence now proposes to add a meter station in Elk County, Pennsylvania at an interconnection with National Fuel. Independence further proposes 5 taps, 4 in Ohio and 1 in Pennsylvania, all at unspecified locations. The proposed taps are designed to permit possible future interconnections with East Ohio Gas Company, Columbia Gas Transmission Company, and National Fuel—interconnections now under discussion.

Independence states that it is revising the estimated facility costs of the project from \$629.6 million to \$677.9 million to take into account costs attributable to the proposed route changes, the addition of a new meter station, changes to compression facilities, and a general update in project costs.

Independence states that the redesigned compression, along with the increases in pipeline length and other minor factors has changed maximum capacity from 838,500 Mcf per day (Mcf/d) to 916,300 Mcf/d (summer design) and from 943,300 Mcf/d to 1,001,100 Mcf/d (winter design).

In order to best meet the needs of the market, Independence now proposes to offer the option of negotiated rates. Therefore, Independence requests authority for tariff language to enable Independence to negotiate rates with its shippers, consistent with the Commission's policy statement on negotiated rates.

Independence further proposes to reduce the maximum tariff rates for service on the proposed pipeline. The change reflects the revised project capital costs, a change in the depreciable life of the plant from 25 to 40 years, and a reduced long-term interest rate assumption (from 8.25% to 7.50%).

Any person desiring to participate in the hearing process or to make any protest with reference to said petition to amend should, on or before February 23, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion

to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) 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. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide copies of their protests to the party or parties directly involved. 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.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by every one of the intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as an original and 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-199-000]

Midcoast Interstate Transmission Inc.; Notice of Application for Abandonment

February 2, 1998.

Take notice that on January 23, 1998, Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc. (Midcoast), 3230 Second Street, Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662, filed in Docket No. CP98-199-000, an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations for an order permitting and approving the abandonment by sale to the City Of Florence, Florence, Alabama, of certain certificated meter, measuring and regulating station facilities and appurtenances, as more fully set forth in the application, which is on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

Specifically, Midcoast wants to abandon by sale to the City of Florence, the facilities known as Midcoast's Florence #2 Meter Station and appurtenances which were installed in 1983 pursuant to a Commission order in Docket No. CP81-155. Midcoast indicates that the only customer utilizing or being served through these facilities is the City of Florence, and that the facilities are utilized solely as a secondary delivery point for gas received from Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee) and delivered to the City of Florence pursuant to Midcoast's Firm Transportation Agreement No. 6006. Midcoast says if the facilities are not abandoned and sold to the City of Florence, the facilities could become inactive. Midcoast states that all current volumetric requirements for service to the City of Florence pursuant to the FT agreement will be provided through other existing facilities.

Midcoast states that the proposed abandonment will permit Midcoast to avoid underutilization of the facilities, while the City of Florence will be able to receive gas directly from Tennessee without the needless construction of duplicative facilities. Midcoast and the City of Florence has agreed to the sale and purchase of the facilities for the amount of \$50,000.00.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before February 23, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 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 and 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 in any proceeding herein 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 application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Midcoast to appear or to be represented at the hearing.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-2927 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-200-000]

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Notice of Application

February 2, 1998

Take notice that on January 26, 1998, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel) 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203, filed an application in Docket No. CP98-200-000 pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for permission and approval to abandon certain pipeline facilities, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

National Fuel states that its proposed abandonment is related to a reroute (the Clarion Reroute) proposed by

Independence Pipeline Company in an amended application filed in Docket No. CP97-315-001. A portion of the Clarion Reroute would follow National Fuel's existing right-of-way between Eshbaugh and Lamont, Pennsylvania, a distance of approximately 40 miles.

In its application, National Fuel requests authorization to abandon approximately 30.57 miles of transmission pipeline (and in addition, would abandon 26.03 miles of a non-jurisdictional gathering line) in Clarion, Jefferson, and Elk Counties, Pennsylvania in order to provide space for the proposed 36-inch Independence Pipeline. This would permit the Independence Pipeline to be laid in the existing right-of-way, alongside National Fuel's existing facilities. National Fuel states that its proposed abandonment would reduce the amount of corridor widening necessary to build the Independence Pipeline along this 40-mile corridor, adding to the other advantages of the Clarion Reroute, as described in Independence's amended application in Docket No. CP97-315-001.

National Fuel states that the abandonment will require the relocation of inlet piping at four regulator stations and three taps and the addition of three jumpers, pursuant to Section 2.55(a) of the Commission's regulations. An automation upgrade would also be performed at National Fuel's Knox Compressor Station, pursuant to Section 2.55(a) of the Commission's regulations.

National Fuel estimates that the cost of removing the pipelines to be abandoned will be offset by the salvage value of these pipelines and the cost of the above-described system modifications will be reimbursed by Independence. These system modifications will cost approximately \$843,000.

National Fuel requests that the Commission issue an order approving the abandonment contemporaneously with a Commission order issuing a certificate to Independence in Docket No. CP97-315-001.

National Fuel states that the proposed abandonment and the construction of the Independence Pipeline would not adversely affect system operations or service to customers.

Any person desiring to participate in the hearing process or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before February 23, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and

Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) 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. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide copies of their protests to the party or parties directly involved. 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.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by every one of the intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as an original and 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory 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 application if no motion 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