

file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-640-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Application

July 28, 1997.

Take notice that on July 15, 1997, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), P.O. Box 3330, Omaha, Nebraska 68103-0330, filed in Docket No. CP97-640-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Regulations for permission and approval to abandon by sale of CNG Producing Company (CNG) Northern's ownership interest certain non-contiguous pipeline facilities, with appurtenances, located in Matagorda Island, Offshore Texas (these facilities are known as the High Island Block 571A Lateral), all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

According to Northern, the Commission found that High Island 571 facilities to be non-jurisdictional gathering facilities pursuant to an Order issued June 17, 1994 in CNG Transmission Corporation.¹ Northern proposes to transfer the High Island 571 facilities to CNG which will operate the facilities on a non-jurisdictional basis. According to Northern, CNG will assume all future obligations, and operational and economic responsibilities for these facilities. Northern contends that it will not seek any Order No. 636 stranded facility costs associated with its High Island 571 facilities. Northern states that the facilities to be conveyed to CNG consist of Northern's ownership interest of 15.625% of approximately 7.5 miles of 20-inch pipeline and appurtenant facilities, such pipeline extends from the platform in High Island Block A-571 and terminates at High Island Block A-546 where it connects to the High Island Offshore System (HIOS).

Northern states that it constructed these facilities pursuant to its authority in Docket No. CP80-375-000. Northern

states that in the High Island 571 facilities were initially installed in order to connect new gas supplies required for Northern's merchant sales obligation. Northern contends that it is not currently providing transportation service through its capacity on these facilities. Northern requests that the abandonment authority include any facilities constructed pursuant to its blanket authority during the processing of the proposed application. Northern states that CNG will assume the entire economic risk of the High Island 571 facilities, and any remaining service obligations associated with the facilities it seeks to acquire from Northern. Northern notes that the High Island 571 facilities are located on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and are subject to sections 5 (e) and (f) of the OCS Lands Acts (OCSLA), 43 U.S.C. 1334 (e) and (f). Northern asserts that the proposed abandonment does not involve a significant environmental impact and granting the requested authorization will not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before August 18, 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) 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 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 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 a 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 Northern to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PR97-3-000]

Olympic Natural Gas Company; Notice of Staff Panel

July 28, 1997.

Take notice that a Staff Panel shall be convened in accordance with the Commission order¹ in the above-captioned docket to allow opportunity for written comments and for the oral presentation of views, data, and arguments regarding the fair and equitable rates to be established for transportation service under section 311 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 on Olympic Natural Gas Company's West Chalkley system. The Staff Panel will not be a judicial or evidentiary-type hearing and there will be no cross-examination of persons presenting statements. Members participating on the Staff Panel before whom the presentations are made may ask questions. If time permits, Staff Panel members may also ask such relevant questions as are submitted to them by participants. Other procedural rules relating to the panel will be announced at the time the proceeding commences.

The Staff Panel will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 1997, at 10:00 A.M. in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20526.

Attendance is open to all interested parties and staff. Any questions regarding these proceedings should be directed to Mark Zindel at (202) 208-0804.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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¹ CNG Transmission Corporation, et al., 67 FERC ¶ 61,330 (1994) and 69 FERC ¶ 61,650 (1994).

¹ See Olympic Pipeline Company, 80 FERC ¶ 61,017 (1997).