

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 certificate is 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. CP98-136-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Application

December 22, 1997.

Take notice that on December 16, 1997, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco), P.O. Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77252, filed in Docket No. CP98-136-000 a request pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for approval to abandon a firm transportation service provided for Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BG&E) under Transco's Rate Schedule FT, all as more fully set forth in the

request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Transco states that it currently delivers 3,881 Dekatherms of natural gas to BG&E on a firm basis pursuant to Transco's blanket certificate authorized under Part 284(G) of the Commission's Regulations. Transco asserts that it seeks abandonment authorization for the service described above because the subject FT service for BG&E was previously converted from firm sales service to firm transportation service under Transco's Rate Schedule FT pursuant to Transco's revised Stipulation and Agreement in Docket Nos. RP88-68, *et al.*, and that settlement provides that pre-granted abandonment shall not apply to such conversions. It is indicated that by letter dated July 17, 1997, BG&E provided notice to Transco that BG&E was electing to terminate the service agreement effective as of the end of the primary term of the agreement, February 2, 1998. It is further asserted that one shipper, The Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia, submitted a binding nomination for all of such capacity for a primary term of 25 years in an open season that extended from October 21 through November 20, 1997.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make protest with reference to said application should on or before January 5, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20426, a petition to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 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. Any person wishing to become a party to the proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a petition 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 on this application if no petition to intervene is filed within the time required herein, and if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that the application is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a petition 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 Transco to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP98-131-000, CP98-133-000, CP98-134-000, and CP98-135-000]

Vector Pipeline L.P.; Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity, and for a Presidential Permit and Section 3 Authorization

December 22, 1997.

Take notice that on December 15, 1997, Vector Pipeline L.P. (Vector), 2900 421-7th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 4K9, filed applications pursuant to Sections 3 and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA). In Docket No. CP98-131-000, Vector seeks a Presidential Permit and Section 3 authorization pursuant to Part 153 of the Commission's Regulations. In Docket No. CP98-133-000, Vector seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate natural gas pipeline facilities under Part 157, Subpart E of the Commission's Regulations. In Docket No. CP98-134-000, Vector seeks a blanket certificate pursuant to 18 CFR Part 284, Subpart G of the Commission's Regulations for self-implementing transportation authority. Finally, in Docket No. CP98-135-000, Vector seeks a blanket certificate for certain blanket construction and operation authorization under 18 CFR Part 157, Subpart F of the Commission's Regulations. Vector's proposal is more fully set forth in the applications which are on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Vector is a limited partnership organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. The managing general partner is Vector Pipeline Inc. At present, the only limited partner of Vector is IPL Vector (USA). Vector states that other entities are considering joining the partnership and that vector will supplement its application if this occurs.

In Docket No. CP98-133-000, Vector proposes to construct and operate 269.6 miles of 42-inch pipeline and lease and operate 58.8 miles of 36-inch pipeline.¹ The system will extend from Joliet, Illinois to the U.S.-Canada border near St. Clair, Michigan. In addition, Vector proposes to construct and operate two 30,000 horsepower compressor stations, five meter/regulating stations, and other appurtenant facilities. Vector states that the estimated cost of the proposed facilities is \$447 million (including AFUDC and line pack) and will be project financed. Vector states that the capacity of the proposed pipeline is 1.01 MMDth per day. Vector states that it has conducted an open season and has a significant portion of the proposed pipeline's capacity subscribed. Even though Vector has filed under the optional certificate procedures of 18 CFR Part 157, Subpart E, Vector states that it will file voluntarily a summary of the market results, when available.

Vector proposes to provide firm and interruptible service under Rate Schedules FT-1 and IT-1, respectively. Vector states that it has offered both negotiated and recourse rates during the open season. Vector states that it offered a negotiated rate structure in which rates would be set by the formula and under which shippers would agree to not contest certain elements of the cost of service and Vector would agree to not change those elements for the length of the primary term and any extension under firm service agreements. In addition, Vector states that the negotiated rate under ten-year agreements will be 15 percent higher than the rate under fifteen-year agreements. The firm negotiated rate, under a fifteen-year agreement and stated on a 100 percent load factor basis, is estimated to be \$0.221 per Dth. In addition, Vector intends to cap this rate over the initial fifteen-year term at \$0.237 per Dth.

Vector's proposed recourse rates utilize different cost-of-service components and would allow shippers to take any position with regard to the appropriate cost of service and level of recourse rates. The firm recourse rate in the first year of service, stated on a 100 percent load factor basis, is estimated to be \$0.313 per Dth. Both the firm

negotiated rate and the firm recourse rate are designed using the straight fixed-variable methodology and a total capacity of 1.01 MMDth per day. Vector states that the interruptible rate has been derived using the 100 percent load factor-equivalent firm transportation rate.

Vector has included a *pro forma* FERC Gas Tariff which, Vector asserts, complies with the Commission's policies established in Order Nos. 636, *et seq.* Vector states that it has made every effort to conform its *pro forma* tariff to the currently applicable GISB standards. Vector does request a waiver of section 154.109(c) of the Commission's regulations so that it may omit the statement of discount policy from its tariff. Vector states that this discount policy has no applicability to Vector.

Vector also is seeking NGA Section 3 authority and a Presidential Permit to construct, own, operate, and maintain approximately 3100 feet of 42-inch pipeline located under the riverbed of the St. Clair River at the U.S.-Canada boundary. Vector will connect with Vector Pipeline Limited partnership, its Canadian affiliate, at the boundary.

Vector requests a preliminary determination on non-environmental issues by June 1998, and final certificate authorization by January 1999. Vector states that this will allow construction to be completed by its proposed in-service date of November 1, 1999.

Any person desiring to be heard or making any protest with reference to said application should on or before January 12, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, 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 person to whom the protests are directed. 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 issued by the Commission, filed by the applicant, or

filed by all other 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 serve copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as filing an original and 14 copies with the Commission.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments on any aspect of the proposal considered by the Commission. Instead, a person may submit two copies of such comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters who are concerned about environmental or pipeline routing issues 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 3, 7 and 15 of the NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on these applications 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 certificate is 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 advise, it will be unnecessary for Vector to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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¹ Vector is contracting with Michigan Consolidated Gas Company (MichCon) to lease the Belle River Pipeline that runs between Milford and Belle River Mills, Michigan. The lease is for an initial twenty year term, subject to five year renewals and/or an option for Vector to purchase the line if MichCon elects to cancel the lease. MichCon will operate the Belle River Pipeline at the direction of Vector pursuant to the terms of an operating agreement and the rules and regulations of the Commission.