

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

January 20, 2006

In Reply Refer To:
Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America
Docket No. RP06-152-000

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America
747 East 22nd Street
Lombard, IL 60148

Attention: Bruce H. Newsome, Vice President

Reference: Petition for Waiver

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. On December 23, 2005, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural) filed a Petition for Waiver and Request for Expedited Action to waive certain secondary point rights provisions set forth in section 5.5 of its General Terms and Conditions (GT&C). Natural plans to perform certain system maintenance and testing projects on Segment 26 of its Gulf Coast Line, beginning in early 2006. Projects include hydrostatic testing, spike pressurization, pipe replacement, piping changes, and integrity work. Natural asserts these projects are intended to increase system flexibility and reliability. Natural states, however, that as a result of these projects, it will experience certain capacity constraints on Segment 26 that would affect firm shippers. Natural expects capacity reductions to range from 60,000 Dt per day to 150,000 Dt per day, and vary in duration depending on the work.

2. Under Natural's currently effective tariff, a firm shipper has rights only to secondary points within zones that its primary path traverses. However, in order to mitigate the impending capacity constraints shippers may experience on Segment 26, Natural proposes to expand these rights by waiving certain provisions of section 5.5 of its GT&C. Specifically, Natural requests authority to post the availability of secondary point rights in its South Texas receipt zone for any shipper with firm capacity rights in Segment 26 that is adversely affected by its capacity reductions, even if these secondary points are outside the shipper's primary path zone. According to Natural, providing access to secondary points outside the primary path zone would provide shippers with more flexibility to meet customer needs during its system maintenance and integrity

projects. Natural proposes to limit these special secondary point rights in its South Texas receipt zone to the quantity and duration of the actual capacity reductions affecting Segment 26 shippers. Natural states it will offer these secondary point rights to affected shippers at no additional costs beyond typical costs associated with secondary point rights, such as applicable commodity charges and fuel. Also, Natural would not assess overrun charges for shippers exercising these secondary point rights. Natural states it will provide shippers with 48-hour notice of any capacity reductions on Segment 26. Natural requests expedited action on its waiver request to effectuate the waiver January 20, 2006. Natural expects to complete system work on Segment 26 by May 31, 2006. Natural notes that the Commission recently granted it a similar waiver request to mitigate the effects of capacity reductions to firm shippers.¹

3. The Commission noticed Natural's filing on December 29, 2005, allowing for protests as provided by section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations. Pursuant to Rule 214, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2004), all timely filed motions to intervene and any motions to intervene out-of-time filed before the issuance date of this order are granted. Granting late intervention at this stage of the proceeding will not disrupt this proceeding or place additional burdens on existing parties. No party filed a protest or adverse comments.

4. Granting waiver will provide Natural's shippers with additional flexibility to obtain capacity during periods of constraints caused by Natural performing system maintenance and integrity testing on Segment 26 of its Gulf Coast Line. This will

¹ *Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America*, 112 FERC ¶ 61,214 (2005).

increase reliability on Natural's system and allow shippers to more effectively serve their customers. Accordingly, we grant Natural's waiver request effective January 20, 2006, through May 31, 2006.

By direction of the Commission.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

cc: All Parties

Paul Mallory, Esq.
Attorney for Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America
747 East 22nd Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Paul Korman, Esq.
Robert F. Christin, Esq.
Van Ness Feldman
1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20007-3877