

124 FERC ¶ 61,170
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

August 18, 2008

In Reply Refer To:
Northwest Pipeline GP
Docket No. RP08-452-000

Northwest Pipeline GP
P.O. Box 58900
Salt Lake City, Utah 84158-0900

Attention: Lynn Dahlberg
Manager, Certificates and Tariffs

Subject: Waiver of GT&C section 25.2(c)

Dear Ms. Dahlberg:

1. On July 23, 2008, Northwest Pipeline GP (Northwest) filed a request for waiver of section 25.2(c) of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of its tariff¹ to reserve 98,148 Dth/d of unsubscribed mainline capacity related to its proposed Colorado Hub Connection Project for a total of fourteen months, i.e., two months longer than the one year tariff limitation governing reservations of unsubscribed capacity for a future expansion project. The Commission grants the request for waiver of GT&C section 25.2(c) for good cause shown, and will permit Northwest to reserve the unsubscribed capacity for the requested fourteen months period.

2. Public notice of Northwest's filing was issued on July 24, 2008. Interventions and protests were due as provided for in section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 154.210 (2008). No protests or comments were filed. Pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2008), all timely motions to intervene and any motions to intervene out-of-time filed before the issuance date of this order are granted.

¹ GT&C section 25.2(c) of Northwest's FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1 states "Transporter may elect to reserve for future expansion projects any unsubscribed capacity.... Capacity may be reserved for up to one year prior to Transporter filing for certificate approval for construction of proposed expansion and thereafter until such expansion is placed into service."

3. Northwest states that the proposed Project involves construction of 27.6 miles of 24-inch pipeline and associated facilities connecting the Meeker/White River Hub to an interconnection with its mainline. Northwest asserts that the combination of new facilities with unsubscribed and relinquished mainline capacity will enable it to connect existing markets on its mainline to gas supplies in the Piceance Basin. Northwest also states that the Project is fully subscribed and it has entered into binding precedent agreements with nine shippers. In addition, Northwest has reserved 98,148 Dth/d of unsubscribed firm southbound mainline capacity to be used in the Project with various receipt points between Stanfield, Oregon and Clay Basin for delivery to Ignacio, Colorado.

4. Northwest avers that it anticipated filing its certificate application with the Commission on July 31, 2008, approximately six months after initiating its National Environmental Policy Act pre-filing process, but weather conditions in Colorado caused delays in conducting surveys on the proposed route. Northwest states that it now anticipates filing its certificate application for the Project during the week of August 18, 2008, approximately one month behind schedule and beyond the one year tariff limit on reservations of unsubscribed capacity for a future expansion project. Northwest requests that the Commission grant a waiver of the one year tariff limit,² and permit Northwest to reserve the 98,148 Dth/d of unsubscribed capacity for a total of 14 months for this Project, in case there are other unforeseen delays.

5. Northwest's request for waiver of section 25.2(c) of the GT&C is granted for good cause shown, and the Commission will permit Northwest to reserve the 98,148 Dth/d of unsubscribed capacity for the requested fourteen month period prior to its filing a certificate application for this Project.

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

² *Citing Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp.*, 118 FERC ¶ 61,234, at P 10 (2007) (where pipeline sought a tariff provision allowing reservation of capacity up to two years in advance of an expansion. The Commission directed only a one-year advance reservation of capacity to avoid exercise of market power, but stated that if the pipeline believed that it needed an extension of time to file the certificate application for a particular project for which it has reserved capacity, then the pipeline may request that the Commission waive the one-year tariff limit for that project, and the Commission would evaluate the waiver request based on the circumstances and support that the pipeline provided for the requested waiver).