

134 FERC ¶ 61,165  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

March 3, 2011

In Reply Refer To:  
Northern Natural Gas Company  
Docket No. RP11-74-000

Northern Natural Gas Company  
1111 South 103rd Street  
Omaha, NE 68124

Attention: Dari R. Dornan, Senior Counsel

Reference: Waiver Request

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. On October 18, 2010, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) filed a petition for limited waiver of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of its FERC Gas Tariff (Tariff) to resolve a prior period imbalance with Great Plains Natural Gas Co. (Great Plains) by tiering of the Monthly Index Price (MIP) applicable to imbalances.

2. Section 32 (H), Prior Period Adjustments (PPA), on Fourth Revised Sheet No. 269A of Northern's GT&C states that any transportation imbalance in a given month, created by throughput occurring in a previous month, will have a Dollar Valuation based on the applicable Market Area, Field Area, or Gulf Coast Average Weekly Index Price without tiering for the month in which the throughput occurred for purposes of using the Monthly Cash-out/in Mechanism. In May, 2010, Northern made meter equipment changes at the Great Plains Sugar Beet Coop #1 town border station located near Renville, Minnesota. Measurement errors occurred due to the installation and configuration of the new measuring equipment. The May invoice to Great Plains included imbalance volumes of 11,362 Dth, which spanned three pricing tiers, for a total value of \$52,158.81. A measurement correction PPA of 11,377 Dth was processed which reversed the entire 11,362 Dth originally invoiced and resulted in a 15 Dth imbalance which Northern owed Great Plains. The 11,377 Dth PPA was calculated at the average MIP rate without tiering for a total credit value of \$47,078.44.

3. Because the imbalance resulted from circumstances beyond the customer's control, Northern is requesting limited waiver of its Tariff to allow it to cash-out Great

Plains' 11,362 Dth imbalance amount at the Market Area Tier 1 through Tier 3 levels for the month of May, rather than at the average Market Area MIP rate without tiering. The proposed waiver will result in a billing adjustment of \$5,080.37 to Great Plains. Northern states no party will be harmed by granting such waiver.

4. Public notice of Northern's filing was issued on October 19, 2010. Interventions and protests were due as provided in section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations (18 C.F.R. § 154.210 (2010)). Pursuant to Rule 214, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2010), 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.

5. Based on the information presented, we find that the imbalance resulted from circumstances beyond Great Plains' control, and granting this limited waiver will not adversely impact other shippers on Northern's system. Accordingly, for good cause shown, we grant limited waiver of section 32 (H) of Northern's GT&C to allow resolution of the prior period imbalance with Great Plains by tiering the MIP applicable to the imbalance.

By direction of the Commission.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,  
Deputy Secretary.

cc: All Parties

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