

123 FERC ¶ 61,077
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

April 25, 2008

In Reply Refer To:
Northern Natural Gas Company
Docket No. RP08-280-000

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 March 25, 2007, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) filed a petition for limited waiver of its General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) to resolve an imbalance election error. Section 32(F) of Northern's GT&C provides that a shipper has until the 12th business day of the month to access Northern's website to elect its imbalance resolution mechanism(s) for its previous month's imbalance. According to Northern, on March 13, 2008, Xcel¹ elected to resolve its February 2008 imbalance using the in-kind payback option. Xcel made this election within the 12-day time period. Northern states, however, that one day after the election deadline expired, it became aware that Xcel's election of the in-kind payback option was a mistake, and that Xcel intended to elect the imbalance-to-storage option. Northern requests waiver of its tariff as necessary to allow Xcel to resolve its February 2008 imbalance using the imbalance-to-storage option. Northern notes that Xcel made its original election within the proper election deadline set forth in its tariff, and that it has not yet processed Xcel's in-kind payback option election. Northern also asserts that shippers on its system would not be harmed by granting the waiver.

¹ Collectively, Northern States Power (Minnesota), Northern States Power (Wisconsin), and Northern States Power (Generation).

2. The Commission noticed Northern's filing on March 27, 2008, allowing for protests as provided by section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations. Pursuant to Rule 214, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2007), 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. Northern States Power Company (Minnesota) and Northern States Power Company (Wisconsin) jointly filed comments in support of granting the waiver.

3. For good cause shown, we grant Northern a limited waiver of the imbalance mechanism election deadline set forth in section 32(F) of its GT&C. Granting this waiver will allow Xcel to resolve its February 2008 imbalance using the imbalance-to-storage option, as originally intended, and will not harm other shippers on Northern's system.

By direction of the Commission.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

cc: All Parties

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