

133 FERC 61,047
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

October 19, 2010

In Reply Refer To:
Southern Star Central Gas
Pipeline, Inc.
Docket No. RP10-1176-000

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.
4700 Highway 56
Owensboro, KY 42301

Attention: David N. Roberts, Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Reference: Order No. 587-U Compliance Filing and Request for Waivers of
NAESB Standards

Dear Mr. Roberts:

1. On September 1, 2010, Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (Southern Star) filed revised tariff sheets¹ to comply with Order No. 587-U.² In Order No. 587-U, the Commission incorporated by reference into its regulations Version 1.9 of the North American Energy Standards Board Wholesale Gas Quadrant's standards. The Version 1.9 standards include, among other things, new and modified standards governing Index-Based Capacity Release and Flexible Delivery and Receipt Points, as well as standards adopted in response to Order Nos. 698, 712, 717, and 682.³

¹ See Appendix for List of Sheets.

² *Standards for Business Practices for Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines*, Order No. 587-U, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,307 (2010) (Order No. 587-U).

³ *Standards for Business Practices for Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines*, Order No. 698, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,251 (2007), *order on clarification and reh'g*, Order No. 698-A, 121 FERC ¶ 61,264 (2007); *Promotion of a More Efficient Capacity Release Market*, Order No. 712, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,271 (2008), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 712-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,284 (2008), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 712-B, 127 FERC ¶ 61,051 (2009); *Standards of Conduct for Transmission Providers*, Order No. 717, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,280 (2008), *order on reh'g and clarification*, Order No. 717-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,297 (2009), *order on reh'g*, Order

(continued...)

Southern Star requests continuation of the extension of time to implement certain EDI/EDM processing requirements related to NAESB data sets that have not been implemented by Southern Star, and continuation of the conditional waivers granted previously by Commission Letter Order issued on August 21, 2009, in Docket Nos. RP09-734-000 and RP09-734-001 (August 21 Order). Southern Star is further requesting waiver of the requirement to implement Version 1.9 Standards 2.4.17 and 2.4.18, stating that these standards are not relevant to Southern Star's system. Southern Star has also requested an effective date of October 20, 2010, which precedes the November 1, 2010 date for implementation as set by the Final Rule. Finally, on October 14, 2010 Southern Star filed a motion for an extension of time of up to 60 days from its proposed effective date, or until December 16, 2010, for certain of the Version 1.9 standards adopted by Order No. 587-U. With this motion for an extension of time, Southern Star also requests expedited consideration of this motion. Specifically, Southern Star states that it has been unable to complete the testing phase of its NAESB Version 1.9 programming related to the use of index based rates for capacity release and the redirection of quantities already scheduled through a constraint point as required by Version 1.9 Standard 1.3.80. Southern Star states that other system changes are related to those changes where testing is not yet complete and Southern Star requests an extension of time for those standards also.⁴

2. Public notice of the filing was issued on September 1, 2010. Interventions and protests were due on or before September 13, 2010. Pursuant to Rule 214 (18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2010)), all timely filed motions to intervene and any motion 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 the proceeding or place additional burdens on existing parties. No protests or adverse comments were filed.

3. The Commission finds that good cause exists to continue the extension of time to implement the EDI/EDM processing requirements related to Version 1.9 of the NAESB data sets that are not currently being utilized by Southern Star's customer or third parties. Specifically, Southern Star requests approval of a continuation of the 90-day extension of time following the receipt of a request for the use of such data sets to allow time to implement the requested data set(s). Southern Star states that to date, it has received no

No. 717-B, 129 FERC ¶ 61,123 (2009); *Revision of Regulations to Require Reporting of Damage to Natural Gas Pipelines Facilities*, Order No. 682, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,227 (2006), *order denying reh'g*, Order No. 682-A, 118 FERC ¶ 61,188 (2007).

⁴ Specifically, Southern Star requests an extension of time for Version 1.9 Standard 1.3.80 and the following capacity release related standards: 5.2.4, 5.2.5, 5.3.1, 5.3.3, 5.3.26, 5.3.61, 5.6.62, 5.6.62a, 5.3.63-5.3.69, 5.4.1-5.4.3, 5.4.7, 5.4.9, 5.4.18, and 5.4.20.

such requests. Previously, Southern Star was granted a temporary extension of time to implement the requested data set(s). Consistent with the August 21 Order, we grant Southern Star's request for an extension of time of the EDI/EDM standards.

4. Further, Data Sets 2.4.17, "Producer Imbalance Statement" and 2.4.18, "Measurement Events/Alarms," are mutually agreeable data sets which Southern Star does not utilize; therefore, good cause exists to grant the requested waiver. Finally we accept Southern Star's tariff sheets listed in the appendix effective October 20, 2010, as proposed.

5. We grant an extension of time until December 16, 2010 to comply with the electronic requirements for supporting indexed based releases, but not of the NAESB business practice requirements regarding the pipeline's obligation to support such releases. As the Commission pointed out in Order No. 698, pipelines are required to support indexed based releases⁵, and Southern Star has not demonstrated that it cannot continue to support such releases through manual or methods other than the electronic requirements in the NAESB standards. Therefore, we grant an extension of time until December 16, 2010 to comply with the electronic requirements (Standards, 5.3.61, 5.4.1-5.4.3, 5.4.7, 5.4.9, 5.4.18, and 5.4.20), but will require Southern Star to support indexed base releases pursuant to Standards 5.2.4, 5.2.5, 5.3.1, 5.3.3, 5.3.26, 5.6.62, 5.6.62a, 5.3.63 5.3.64, 5.3.67-5.3.69.⁶

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

Cc: Public File
All Parties

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⁵ *Standards for Business Practices for Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines; Standards for Business Practices for Public Utilities*, Order No. 698, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,251 (2007).

⁶ *MoGas Pipeline, LLC*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,035 at P 8-10 (2010).

Appendix

**Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.
FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1**

Tariff Sheets Accepted Effective October 20, 2010

First Revised Sheet No. 260
First Revised Sheet No. 261
First Revised Sheet No. 262
Original Sheet No. 262A
First Revised Sheet No. 287
First Revised Sheet No. 290
First Revised Sheet No. 303
First Revised Sheet No. 304
First Revised Sheet No. 305
First Revised Sheet No. 306