

143 FERC ¶ 61,080
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

(April 29, 2013)

In Reply Refer To:
Trailblazer Pipeline Company LLC
Docket No. RP13-744-000

Trailblazer Pipeline Company LLC
370 Van Gordon Street
Lakewood, CO 80228

Attention: Robert F. Harrington, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

Reference: Expansion Fuel Rate Percentage

Dear Mr. Harrington:

1. On March 29, 2013, Trailblazer Pipeline Company LLC (Trailblazer) filed a tariff record¹ and supporting work papers to revise its Expansion Fuel Adjustment Percentage (EFAP). The tariff record is accepted and suspended, to be effective May 1, 2013, subject to refund and the conditions discussed herein.
2. Trailblazer states that pursuant to section 38, Periodic Rate Adjustment – Expansion Fuel Reimbursement, of the GT&C of its FERC Gas Tariff, Trailblazer’s EFAP rate consists of a Current Rate and a Deferred Rate. The Current Rate recovers annual ongoing energy costs and consists of two components. The first component is based on actual natural gas consumption and the second component is based on electric costs, which are converted to natural gas equivalents. These costs are divided by Trailblazer’s actual receipt volumes, net of fuel, for the 12-month base period. The Deferred Rate reconciles actual fuel collections with actual costs, on a monthly basis, and recovers the balance in a deferred account over the annual recovery period.
3. The revised EFAP proposed to be effective in this filing reflects an increase in the total EFAP from 21.88 percent to 24.68 percent. The current component is 15.53 percent and the deferred component is 9.15 percent.

¹ Trailblazer Pipeline Company LLC, FERC NGA Gas Tariff, Tariffs, [Rates, Expansion Fuel Reimbursement Percentage, 1.0.0.](#)

4. Public notice of the filing was issued on April 1, 2013. Interventions and protests were due as provided in section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations (18 C.F.R. § 154.210 (2012)). Pursuant to Rule 214 (18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2012)), all timely motions to intervene and any unopposed motion to intervene out-of-time filed before the issuance date of this order are granted. No party filed a protest or comments.

5. Based upon a review of the filing, the Commission finds that the proposed tariff records have not been shown to be just and reasonable, and may be unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory, or otherwise unlawful. Trailblazer's prior fuel filing in Docket No. RP13-94-000 remains subject to Commission review.² The instant filing raises similar issues involving the calculation of Trailblazer's EFAP rate, and the calculation of the deferred component is dependent upon the outcome of the proceedings in Docket No. RP13-94-000.

6. The Commission's policy regarding rate suspensions is that rate filings generally should be suspended for the maximum period permitted by statute where preliminary study leads the Commission to believe that the filing may be unjust, unreasonable, or that it may be inconsistent with other statutory standards.³ It is recognized, however, that shorter suspensions may be warranted in circumstances where suspensions for the maximum period may lead to harsh and inequitable results.⁴ Such circumstances exist here where there are no objections to Trailblazer's proposed rate change. Therefore, the Commission shall exercise its discretion to suspend the rates to take effect on May 1, 2013, subject to refund and to the outcome of the proceedings in Docket No. RP13-94-000.

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

² *Trailblazer Pipeline Company LLC*, 141 FERC ¶ 61,077 (2012).

³ *See Great Lakes Gas Transmission Co.*, 12 FERC ¶ 61,293 (1980) (five-month suspension).

⁴ *See Valley Gas Transmission, Inc.*, 12 FERC ¶ 61,197 (1980) (one-day suspension).