

143 FERC ¶ 61,203
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

June 3, 2013

In Reply Refer To:
Northern Natural Gas Company
Docket No. RP13-884-000

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

Attention: Dari R. Dornan, Senior Counsel

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. On May 2, 2013, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) filed a petition for a limited waiver of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of its FERC Gas Tariff to allow Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) to resolve an imbalance by using the imbalance-to-storage mechanism set forth in its tariff. As discussed below, the Commission grants Northern's request for limited waiver.

2. Section 32(F), Resolution of Imbalance, on Original Sheet No. 269 of the GT&C states:

Shippers will have until the 12th Business Day of the month to access Northern's website to elect which imbalance resolution mechanism(s) they will use and the volumes associated with each mechanism. Any volumes not designated to be resolved using either trading (for which final notification is due to Northern by the 17th business day), imbalance-to-storage or in-kind resolution will automatically be cashed out.

MERC's March 2013 activity resulted in a monthly credit imbalance of 36,186 Dth. Northern states that MERC personnel inadvertently failed to elect the imbalance-to-storage option on a timely basis as intended.

3. Northern requests a waiver of the tariff deadline for making such an election, in order to allow MERC to resolve its March 2013 imbalance volume using the imbalance-to-storage option rather than an automatic cash-out. Northern states no party will be harmed by approval of the waiver.

4. Public notice of Northern's filing was issued on May 6, 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 filed motions to intervene and any unopposed 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. For good cause shown, the Commission grants Northern's request for limited waiver of the imbalance resolution provisions set forth in Section 32(F) its GT&C. This will allow MERC to resolve its March 2013 imbalance as intended, and no other shipper on Northern's system will be adversely affected.

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.