

145 FERC ¶ 61,107
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

November 7, 2013

In Reply Refer To:
Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.
Docket Nos. PR13-62-000
PR13-62-001

NiSource Corporate Services Co.
121 Champion Way
Suite 100
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Attention: Kenneth W. Christman
Assistant General Counsel

Dear Mr. Christman:

1. On August 30, 2013, as revised on September 27, 2013, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. (Columbia), a local distribution company and Hinshaw pipeline, filed a tariff record¹ containing its baseline statement of operating conditions (SOC) for its new Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) section 311 interstate natural gas transportation service.² Columbia filed to comply with the Commission's section 284.224 Blanket Certificate Order issued in Docket No. CP12-517-000,³ which required Columbia to file its SOC, containing a rate sheet and terms and conditions of service, within 30 days of commencement of its new NGPA section 311 service. Columbia filed in compliance with the Blanket Certificate Order stating that it commenced NGPA section 311 service

¹ Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc., FERC NGPA Gas Tariff, Tariffs, [Tariff, Columbia Gas of Maryland, 0.0.1.](#)

² The tariff record listed above was filed on September 27, 2013, in Docket No. PR13-62-001 and replaced the tariff record filed on August 30, 2013, in Docket No. PR13-62-000.

³ See *Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.*, 141 FERC ¶ 62,217, at P 9 (2012) (Blanket Certificate Order).

on August 2, 2013. The Commission accepts the referenced tariff record effective August 2, 2013, subject to the conditions discussed below.

2. Columbia states that its SOC contains a rate sheet and terms and conditions of service, consistent with the requirements of the Commission's Blanket Certificate Order. Columbia states that its SOC contains the same rates, and substantially the same terms and conditions, that are applicable to customers receiving intrastate natural gas transportation service in Maryland under Rate TS, which was found to be appropriate by the Commission in the Blanket Certificate Order.⁴

3. Public notice of the filings were issued on September 19, 2013, and October 1, 2013. Interventions and protests were due on September 20, 2013, and October 9, 2013. Pursuant to Rule 214 (18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2013)), all timely filed motions to intervene and any unopposed 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.

4. In Order No. 735, the Commission stated that Hinshaw and section 311 pipelines, including those electing to use state-approved rates, are required to file a rate review on a five-year basis either by filing a cost and revenue study or by filing an application for rate approval with the Commission.⁵ Recently, Order No. 781 modified that policy to permit Hinshaw and section 311 pipelines using state-approved rate elections to meet the five-year review requirement by certifying that those state-approved rates are unchanged and thus continue to meet the requirements of section 284.123(b)(1).⁶ However, the Commission requires that, if the state-approved rate used for the rate election is changed at any time, the pipeline must file a new application for rate approval pursuant to section 284.123(b) or (g) for its interstate rates not later than 30 days after the changed rate becomes effective.

⁴ See Blanket Certificate Order, 141 FERC ¶ 62,217, at P 8.

⁵ *Contract Reporting Requirements of Intrastate Natural Gas Companies*, Order No. 735, 75 Fed. Reg. 29,404 (May 26, 2010), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,310, at P 92 (2010) (Order No. 735), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 735-A, 75 Fed. Reg. 80,685 (Dec. 23, 2010), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,318 (2010); *see also Hattiesburg Industrial Gas Sales, L.L.C.*, 134 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2011) (imposing a five-year rate review requirement on Hattiesburg Industrial Gas Sales, L.L.C. in an order approving Hattiesburg's multiple revisions to its SOC).

⁶ *See Revisions to Procedural Regulations Governing Transportation by Intrastate Pipelines*, Order No. 781, 78 Fed. Reg. 45,850-63 (July 30, 2013), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,348 at PP 56-64 (cross-referenced at 144 FERC ¶ 61,034 (2013)) (Order No. 781).

5. Accordingly, the Commission accepts Columbia's baseline SOC filing, including the election of its state-approved Rate TS, effective August 2, 2013, subject to the condition that: (1) if its rates have not changed Columbia must file on or before August 2, 2018, to certify that its rates have not changed and that they continue to meet the requirements of section 284.123(b)(1) on the same basis on which they were approved; or (2) if the state-approved rates used for the elections are changed at any time, Columbia must file within 30 days a new rate application pursuant to section 284.123(b) or (g).

By the direction of the Commission.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.