

149 FERC ¶ 61,163
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

November 25, 2014

In Reply Refer To:
Northwest Pipeline LLC
Docket No. RP15-162-000

Northwest Pipeline LLC
P.O. Box 58900
Salt Lake City, Utah 84158-0900

Attention: David J. Madsen,
Director, Rates and Tariffs

Dear Mr. Madsen

1. On November 7, 2014, Northwest Pipeline LLC (Northwest) filed a petition for limited waiver of section 9.2 of Rate Schedule TF-2 (Firm Redelivery Transportation) of its tariff to allow Rate Schedule TF-2 shippers who have the Plymouth LNG facility as their primary receipt point, to temporarily utilize alternate Eligible Storage Facility Receipt Points until March 31, 2015, on a secondary basis. As discussed below, the Commission grants Northwest's requested waiver, effective December 1, 2014.
2. Section 9.2 prohibits Rate Schedule TF-2 shippers from changing their primary receipt points or utilizing alternate receipt points. Northwest states that on March 31, 2014, there was an incident at its Plymouth LNG facility that damaged equipment and resulted in a service interruption at the facility. Plymouth LNG Shippers could not liquefy additional natural gas into the facility during the April-October 2014 liquefaction season, which in turn reduced the quantity of natural gas available to be vaporized during the November 2014-March 2015 winter heating season. A Rate Schedule TF-2 service agreement is used by Plymouth LNG shippers to transport the vaporized natural gas to key market area locations. Northwest states that the majority of Plymouth LNG Rate Schedule TF-2 shippers impacted by the incident have access to natural gas at other storage facilities on the Northwest system that could be used to meet peak heating season demand.
3. Northwest states that the service interruption at its Plymouth LNG facility, coupled with these receipt point restrictions in section 9.2 could cause hardships during the November 2014 to March 2015 heating season for Plymouth LNG Rate Schedule TF-2 shippers.

4. Northwest seeks limited waiver of section 9.2 of Rate Schedule TF-2 (Firm Redelivery Transportation) of its tariff to allow Rate Schedule TF-2 shippers that have the Plymouth LNG facility as their primary receipt point, to use alternate Eligible Storage Facility Receipt Points on a secondary basis, commencing on December 1, 2014 and continuing until March 31, 2015. Northwest states that such secondary firm deliveries will continue to be limited by the annual contract quantity stated in each shipper's service agreement. Lastly, Northwest states that approval of this waiver will not adversely impact primary firm transportation shippers.

5. Notice of Northwest's filing was issued on November 10, 2014. Interventions and protests were due November 13, 2014. Pursuant to Rule 214, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2014), 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 protests or adverse comments were filed.

6. Northwest Natural Gas Company (Northwest Natural) filed comments in support of Northwest's request for limited waiver. Northwest Natural states that this waiver will allow Plymouth Rate Schedule TF-2 shippers, such as Northwest Natural, to temporarily utilize their transportation capacity from other Eligible Storage Facility Receipt Points to meet customer demands during this upcoming winter heating season on a secondary basis. Northwest Natural believes this waiver is a reasonable approach to a unique situation faced by Northwest and its small group of Plymouth LNG facility customers in light of the incident and damage at the Plymouth LNG facilities, and urges the Commission to grant Northwest's petition for waiver.

7. No party has objected to granting this waiver to assist the Plymouth Rate Schedule TF-2 shippers in the circumstances presented, and it appears no party will be harmed by granting limited waiver of Northwest's tariff in these circumstances. Accordingly, for good cause shown, the Commission grants Northwest's request for a limited waiver of section 9.2 of Rate Schedule TF-2 of its tariff, effective December 1, 2014 and continuing through March 31, 2015, in order to allow Rate Schedule TF-2 shippers who use the Plymouth LNG facility as their primary receipt point, to temporarily utilize alternate Eligible Storage Facility Receipt Points on a secondary basis during that period.

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.