

152 FERC ¶ 61,171
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

August 31, 2015

In Reply Refer To:
El Paso Natural Gas Company,
L.L.C.
Docket No. RP15-1201-000

M. Catherine Rezendes
Director, Rates
P. O. Box 1087
Colorado Springs, CO 80944

Dear Ms. Rezendes:

1. On August 19, 2015, El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C. (El Paso) filed a tariff record¹ to reflect a decreased total fuel retention percentage applicable to its mainline transactions (mainline fuel). El Paso requests that the Commission issue an order approving the decrease in the percentage of its mainline fuel, as well as granting the waivers needed for the order to be effective September 1, 2015. As discussed below, the Commission grants the requested waivers, and accepts El Paso's tariff record, effective September 1, 2015.

2. Section 13 of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of El Paso's tariff provides that El Paso will annually restate its fuel and lost and unaccounted for gas (FL&U) percentages to be effective January 1 of each year. At the time El Paso computed rates for its last FL&U filing,² El Paso was under-collecting in excess of 4,560,000 dekatherms of mainline fuel. Therefore, a volumetric true-up retention percentage of 0.41% was proposed to recover the under-collection during the 12-month period those rates were to be in effect. However, El Paso states that this has resulted in collection of the under-recovered fuel volumes sooner than anticipated.

¹ El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C., FERC NGA Gas Tariff, EPNG Tariffs, [Part II: Stmt. of Rates, Section 3 - Fuel and L&U Rates, 10.0.0.](#)

² See filing in Docket No. RP15-220-000.

3. El Paso therefore requests waiver of 18 C.F.R. § 154.207 (2015) of the Commission's regulations, which states that proposed changes must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days nor more than 60 days prior to the effective date, and of section 13.3 of its tariff to allow for this out-of-time mainline fuel true-up retention percentage filing, in order to avoid continuing over-collection of mainline fuel.
4. El Paso explains that continuing to charge shippers with a true-up retention percentage of 0.41% will likely produce a significant over-collection of fuel volumes by the end of 2015 that would be required to be returned to the shippers through the fuel retention rates in El Paso's next annual FL&U filing. To minimize the potential over-collection of fuel quantities, El Paso proposes to reduce the current true-up retention percentage from 0.41% to 0.00% for the period September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. El Paso states that this decreases the total mainline fuel retention rate from 2.71% to 2.30%, which benefits El Paso's shippers by providing immediate recognition of the true-up volumes already collected and helps to mitigate the possibility of over-collecting volumes for the remainder of the period. El Paso also points out that significant over-collection of fuel volumes has the potential to limit its operational flexibility.
5. Public notice of the filing was issued on August 20, 2015. Interventions and protests were due as provided in section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations (18 C.F.R. § 154.210 (2015)). Pursuant to Rule 214 (18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2015)), 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.
6. In order to mitigate the possibility of over-collecting volumes, the Commission finds good cause to grant the requested waivers, and accepts the proposed tariff sheets to be effective September 1, 2015, as requested.

By direction of the Commission.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.