

154 FERC ¶ 61,049
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

January 28, 2016

In Reply Refer To:
Kern River Gas Transmission
Company
Docket No. RP16-323-000

Kern River Gas Transmission Company
2755 East Cottonwood Parkway
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Attention: Laura Demman

Dear Ms. Demman:

1. On December 28, 2015, Kern River Gas Transmission Company (Kern River) filed a revised tariff record¹ to allow Kern River to receive gas during emergencies from existing delivery meters that would be operated as temporary receipt meters, even though they are not installed and operated in accordance with American Gas Association (AGA) recommendations for receipt meters.
2. Kern River originates in southwestern Wyoming and extends approximately 900 miles to the San Joaquin Valley in Kern River, California. The pipeline has several delivery point interconnects with major natural gas utilities in Utah, Nevada, and California. Kern River explains its shipper's primary source of natural gas comes from southwestern Wyoming.
3. As part of a comprehensive initiative to prepare for a potential emergency on its system, Kern River determined that having the ability to receive additional natural gas from sources in California would allow Kern River to continue providing service if an emergency were likely to cause a significant unscheduled interruption of transportation services on its system.

¹ Kern River Gas Transmission Company, FERC NGA Gas Tariff, Gas Tariff, [Sheet No. 113, GT&C Measuring Equipment, 2.0.0.](#)

4. Kern River has identified four delivery points downstream of Kern River's Goodsprings compressor station in southern Nevada where natural gas supply is available, and where the existing meter stations could be modified to allow Kern River to temporarily receive natural gas during an emergency. Kern River explains it is currently formalizing agreements with Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company, and Mojave Pipeline Company to receive gas at those delivery points under such circumstances.

5. Kern River explains it is not possible, when the delivery meters are temporarily used to measure receipts, to comply with the AGA recommended distance between a receipt meter tube inlet and the flow conditioner, and between the flow conditioner and the meter, due to the meter station piping layout and gas routing options at the existing meter stations. Kern River further explains that when these meters are used temporarily as receipt meters, they will not comply with the AGA recommendations for receipt meter installation and operation, as currently required by Kern River's tariff at section 3.1 of its General Terms and Conditions (GT&C).²

6. Kern River therefore proposes to revise section 3.1 to provide an exception to the AGA recommendations in emergencies as follows: “[w]here positive displacement meters, turbine meters, ultrasonic meters, or other measuring devices are used, they will be installed and operated in accordance with then-current American Gas Association recommendations, where available, *except in circumstances where such meters, located at Delivery Points and modified to enable Transporter to temporarily receive Natural Gas, are used as Receipt Points in the event of an emergency that has caused, or may cause, a significant unscheduled interruption of transportation services on Transporter's system.*”

7. Public notice of the filing was issued on December 29, 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 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 the proceeding or place additional burdens on existing parties.

8. Southern California Gas Company filed comments in support of the tariff record stating the revision would support the reliability of the Kern River System, while the

² Section 3.1 requires that “[w]here positive displacement meters, turbine meters, ultrasonic meters, or other measuring devices are used, they will be installed and operated in accordance with the then-current American Gas Association recommendations, where available.”

Indicated Shippers³ submitted comments raising concern with the tariff filing. Specifically, the Indicated Shippers explain the term “emergency event” was not defined in Kern River’s filing and state that Kern River has agreed to define the term and tie it to the definition of “force majeure,” as set forth in Section 7.1 of the GT&C of Kern River’s tariff.

9. The Commission finds the tariff revision will allow Kern River to minimize transportation service interruptions in emergency situations. The minor emergency exception to otherwise applicable AGA recommendations for receipt point measuring equipment will benefit shippers relying on Kern River’s system because loss of line-flow can now be avoided or ameliorated by adapting an existing meter at a delivery point to serve as a measuring device for receipt of additional natural gas during an emergency. This will enable Kern River to lessen or avoid an unscheduled interruption of service. Accordingly, the Commission accepts the tariff record listed in footnote No. 1 effective February 1, 2016, subject to Kern River filing within 15 days of this order, a revised tariff record that ties the definition of “emergency event” to the definition of “force majeure” in GT&C section 7.1 of Kern River’s tariff.

By direction of the Commission.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

³ The Indicated Shippers consist of Aera Energy LLC, Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc., and WPX Energy Marketing, LLC.