154 FERC ¶ 61,254
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

March 30, 2016

In Reply Refer To:
Viking Gas Transmission Company
Docket No. RP16-703-000

Viking Gas Transmission Company
c/o ONEOK Partners GP, L.L.C.
100 West 5th Street
Tulsa, OK 74103

Attention: Ron M. Mucci
Vice President, Rates and Regulatory Affairs

Dear Mr. Mucci:

1. On March 1, 2016, pursuant to Part 154 of the Commission's regulations,[1] Viking Gas Transmission Company (Viking) filed a proposed tariff record[2] implementing its annual Load Management Cost Reconciliation Adjustment (LMCRA) under its Rate Schedule Load Management Service (LMS). Viking also seeks temporary and limited waiver of its tariff provisions governing the application of the index price used for imbalance cash outs.[3] As discussed below, the Commission accepts the tariff record, effective April 1, 2016, and grants the request for waiver.

2. Viking's LMCRA is designed to reconcile through surcharges or credits, the difference resulting from its purchase cost, and the sale of, line pack gas. Viking explains that the purchase and sale of line pack gas on its system is necessary for the following

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[1] 18 C.F.R. § 154.403 (2015).

[2] Viking Gas Transmission Company, FERC Gas Tariff, Part 5.0, Statement of Rates, 23.0.0.

[3] Viking Gas Transmission Company, FERC Gas Tariff, Part 7.30, Rate Schedule LMS, sec. 5(b).

reasons: (1) to resolve balancing party imbalances as provided for in Rate Schedule LMS; (2) to resolve imbalances at interstate pipeline interconnects; and (3) to maintain an appropriate level of line pack gas for system management purposes. Viking proposes a credit of ($0.0273) per dekatherm to Rate Schedule LMS.

3. Part 7.30, Rate Schedule LMS, section 5(b) of Viking's tariff provides that the Index Price for Imbalance Cash Out shall be determined on a weekly and monthly basis, using the higher of either the price published in Gas Daily's "Weekly Price Survey" for Emerson, Viking GL or for ANR ML7 for such week. Viking states that due to administrative oversight, the change in the Index Price to include the higher of Emerson, Viking GL or ANR ML7, pursuant to Rate Schedule LMS Imbalance Cash Out, was not implemented on November 1, 2014, the effective date of the tariff provision. Viking acknowledges that it instead continued using only the Emerson, Viking GL Index Price to determine the cash out of imbalances. Therefore, Viking requests a temporary and limited waiver of the subject tariff provision to allow it to use the Emerson index for this LMCRA filing and make correcting adjustments as part of its next annual LMCRA filing.

4. Viking states that on February 29, 2016, it notified its customers that it is conducting a thorough review of cash out transactions from November 1, 2014 through January 31, 2016 to determine the impact on customers. Viking states that its initial review indicates that the impact will be minimal. Additionally, on February 29, 2016, Viking states that it corrected its February 2016 Index Prices and posted revised Index Prices on its Informational Postings Web Site. Viking states that the assessment of the corrections that may be required was not complete at the time the instant LMCRA adjustment was filed. As a consequence, the instant LMCRA refund filing reflects only the Emerson, Viking GL Index Price. However, Viking indicates that based on its initial review it expects the impact to shippers to be minimal. Viking therefore requests a temporary and limited waiver of Part 7.30, Rate Schedule LMS, section 5(b) of its tariff requirements for determining the Index Price for imbalance cash outs for the period of November 1, 2014 through January 31, 2016, to allow it to temporarily use only the Emerson, Viking GL Index Price. Viking states that it will reflect adjustments to the cash out pricing for the period of November 1, 2014 through January 31, 2016 in its next annual LMCRA filing on March 1, 2017.

5. Public notice of the filing was issued on March 2, 2016. Interventions and protests were due on or before March 14, 2016, as provided in section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations.[4] Pursuant to Rule 214,[5] all timely filed motions to intervene

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[4] 18 C.F.R. § 154.210.

[5] *Id*. § 385.214.

and any unopposed motions to intervene out-of-time filed before the issuance date of this order are granted. Granting late interventions at this stage of the proceeding will not disrupt the proceeding or place additional burdens on existing parties. No adverse comments or protests were filed.

6. The Commission accepts Viking's proposed tariff record,[6] effective April 1, 2016. The Commission finds that good cause exists to grant the unopposed temporary and limited waiver of Part 7.30, Rate Schedule LMS, section 5(b) of Viking's tariff provisions governing the application of the index price used for imbalance cash outs. The waiver will facilitate the LMCRA refunds to Viking's customers proposed in the instant filing. In its next LMCRA filing, required by March 1, 2017, Viking will make adjustments to the cash out pricing for the period of November 1, 2014 through January 31, 2016 to reflect the calculation of cash out imbalances using the higher of the two index prices provided for in Part 7.30, Rate Schedule LMS, section 5(b) of Viking's tariff.

By direction of the Commission.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

[6] *See supra* note 2.