

156 FERC ¶ 61,137
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

August 29, 2016

In Reply Refer To:
Northern Natural Gas Company
Docket No. RP16-1085-000

Northern Natural Gas Company
1111 South 103rd Street
Omaha, NE 68124

Attention: Dari R. Dornan
Senior Counsel

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. On July 7, 2016, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) filed a petition for a limited waiver of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of its FERC Gas Tariff to allow a non-affiliated customer to resolve an imbalance by using the imbalance-to-storage mechanism outside of the timelines set forth in its tariff. As discussed below, the Commission grants Northern's request for limited waiver.

2. Section 32(F), Resolution of Imbalances, on Original Sheet No. 269 of Northern Natural's GT&C provides in part as follows:

Shippers will have until the 12th Business Day of the month to access Northern's website to elect which imbalance resolution mechanism(s) they will use and the volumes associated with each mechanism. Any volumes not designated to be resolved using either trading (for which final notification is due to Northern by the 17th business day), imbalance-to-storage or in-kind resolution will automatically be cashed out.

According to Northern, Customer's May 2016 activity resulted in a monthly credit imbalance of 9,090 Dth. Northern states that Customer's personnel inadvertently failed to elect the imbalance-to-storage option under an overrun contract and instead entered such election under a Firm Deferred Delivery (FDD) contract. Northern states the imbalance-to-storage election did not process as the Customer requested because

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Northern does not allow storage injection or withdrawal in the month of May under FDD contracts except as overrun. Northern states the Customer was timely in its election; however, because it inadvertently selected a FDD contract instead of identifying an overrun contract, the imbalance was cashed out by Northern's system.

3. Northern requests a waiver of its tariff as necessary to allow the customer to resolve its May 2016 imbalance volumes using the imbalance-to-storage option rather than by cashing-out the balance. Northern states that granting the waiver will allow the affected customer to resolve its May 2016 imbalance as originally intended and no party will be harmed by approval of the waiver.

4. Public notice of the filing was issued on July 27, 2016. Interventions and protests were due as provided in section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations (18 C.F.R. § 154.210 (2016)). Pursuant to Rule 214 (18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2016)), 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.

5. For good cause shown, the Commission grants Northern's request for limited waiver of the imbalance resolution provisions set forth in Section 32(F) of its GT&C. The Commission has approved limited waivers in this regard in the past.¹ Granting this waiver will allow the customer to resolve its May 2016 imbalance as intended, and no other shipper on Northern's system will be adversely affected.

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

¹ See, e.g., *Northern Natural Gas Co.*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,001 (2014) and *Northern Natural Gas Co.*, 143 FERC ¶ 61,203 (2013).