

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

September 9, 2019

In Reply Refer To:

Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC;
Big Sandy Pipeline, LLC; Bobcat Gas
Storage; East Tennessee Natural Gas, LLC;
Egan Hub Storage, LLC; Garden Banks
Gas Pipeline, LLC; Maritimes & Northeast
Pipeline, L.L.C.; Mississippi Canyon Gas
Pipeline, LLC; Moss Bluff Hub, LLC;
Nautilus Pipeline Company, L.L.C.;
NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC; Ozark
Gas Transmission, L.L.C.; Sabal Trail
Transmission, LLC; Saltville Gas Storage
Company L.L.C.; Southeast Supply
Header, LLC; Steckman Ridge, LP; and
Texas Eastern Transmission, LP

Docket No. RP19-1463-000

Enbridge (U.S.) Inc.
5400 Westheimer Court
Houston, TX 77056

Re: Letter Order on Waiver of Certain North American Energy Standards Board
Standards, Commission Regulations, and Tariff Records

Attention: Jennifer Rinker
Senior Legal Counsel and FERC Chief Compliance Officer

Dear Ms. Rinker:

1. On August 8, 2019, the above captioned companies (collectively, the LINK®
Companies) filed a request for temporary waiver of certain North American Energy

Standards Board (NAESB) Standards,¹ Commission regulations,² and provisions of the LINK® Companies' tariffs.³ The LINK® Companies request waiver to accommodate an outage of their Electronic Bulletin Boards (LINK® System) required by upcoming system maintenance. The LINK® Companies request that the Commission issue an order on or before September 11, 2019. As discussed below, and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the LINK® Companies' request for waiver.

2. The LINK® Companies state that the required LINK® System maintenance is scheduled to commence on Friday, September 13, 2019, at 10:00 p.m. Central Clock Time (CCT), and that the work will continue until 9:00 a.m. CCT on Sunday, September 15, 2019 (Outage Period). According to the LINK® Companies, the purpose of the system maintenance is to migrate the database software used to support the LINK® System to the most recent version of the software.

3. The LINK® Companies state that they request waiver so they can temporarily modify their nomination and scheduling processes prior to the Outage Period, as well as temporarily suspend these requirements during the Outage Period. The LINK® Companies state they also request temporary waiver of each company's tariff or Statement of Operating Conditions (as applicable) and certain NAESB Standards to permit the following: (1) moving the timely nomination and scheduling deadline for Sunday, September 15, 2019, to Friday, September 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. CCT for online, proprietary file transfers and Electronic Data Interchange transactions; (2) suspending all other nomination cycles during the Outage Period; (3) waiving scheduling and imbalance penalties that are incurred solely as a result of this system maintenance; and (4) suspending the updating of operational data in the Informational Postings Site of the LINK® System during the Outage Period.

4. The LINK® Companies state that they notified their customers of the upcoming outage via a Critical Notice posted on each of the LINK® Companies' Informational Posting websites on August 6, 2019. The LINK® Companies further state that they will

¹ Specifically, the LINK® Companies request waiver of NAESB Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ), Version 3.1: Standards 1.3.1 through 1.3.82 relating to nominations; Standards 2.3.1 through 2.3.66 relating to flowing gas; Standards 4.3.1 through 4.3.106 relating to electronic delivery mechanisms; and Standards 5.3.1 through 5.3.73 relating to handling of capacity release transactions.

² Specifically, the LINK® Companies request waiver of section 284.12 of the Commission's regulations, which governs the standards for pipeline business operations and communications and section 284.13 governing the reporting requirements for interstate pipelines.

³ The LINK® Companies also seek waiver of any provisions of the LINK® Companies' tariffs that may be necessary, as provided in the General Terms and Conditions. Appendix A attached to the filed waiver request lists all requested waivers.

repost the Critical Notice on September 5, 2019, and that beginning September 5, 2019, visitors to the LINK® System will also be notified of the outage by a “pop-up” window.

5. The LINK® Companies assert that good cause exists to grant the requested temporary waiver because of the importance and necessity of properly maintaining the LINK® System. The LINK® Companies state that granting the requested temporary waiver authority will facilitate service continuity to the customers affected during the Outage Period, and claim that granting waiver is consistent with prior Commission actions in such circumstances.⁴ The LINK® Companies further state that the system maintenance will allow a higher level of support from the software vendor should an issue occur that impacts the operational integrity of the database system. Finally, the LINK® Companies claim that the upgrade will provide the benefit of potential performance, maintenance, and functionality improvements that can be applied to the customer usage experience.

6. Public notice of the filing was issued on August 12, 2019. Interventions and protests were due as provided in section 154.210 of the Commission’s regulations.⁵ Pursuant to Rule 214,⁶ 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.

7. For good cause shown, we grant the LINK® Companies’ requested waiver of the NAESB standards, Commission regulations, and tariff provisions as discussed above, and only as necessary to perform the required maintenance on the LINK® System. According to the LINK® Companies, the measures discussed above will enable the LINK® Companies’ customers to make the necessary advanced nominations and scheduling arrangements in

⁴ LINK® Companies Transmittal at 3 (citing *Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC*, 152 FERC ¶ 61,122 (2015); *Texas Eastern Transmission, LP*, 128 FERC ¶ 61,172 (2009)).

⁵ 18 C.F.R. § 154.210 (2019).

⁶ *Id.* at § 385.214.

order to mitigate any disruption in service during the Outage Period. Further, as discussed above, the maintenance is necessary for the efficient functioning of the LINK® system and corresponding operation of the LINK® Companies' pipeline systems.

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.