

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

March 9, 2006

In Reply Refer To:
Northwest Pipeline Corporation
Docket No. RP04-156-000

Northwest Pipeline Corporation
P.O. Box 58900
Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0900

Attention: Gary K. Kotter
Manager, Certificates and Tariffs

Reference: Order Granting Extension of Time

Dear Mr. Kotter:

1. On September 29, 2005, Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest) filed a motion for an extension of time until September 1, 2006, for a limited waiver of section 3.5 of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of its tariff and of the reporting requirements associated with the pilot program for the blending of certain natural gas that does not meet Northwest's gas quality specifications. The pilot program was approved by the Commission on April 16, 2004 in this docket.¹ The request for waiver is unopposed.

2. The April 16, 2004 Order granted Northwest a limited waiver to support a sub-quality gas receipt pilot program initiated by Piceance Natural Gas (PNG), to restore production from certain of its shut-in low-Btu wells. The waiver was granted for a period of one year from the in-service date of the new meter facilities. However, although the

¹ *Northwest Pipeline Corp.*, 107 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2004). Section 3.5 of Northwest's GT&C allows Northwest to blend sub-quality gas on a not unduly discriminatory basis subject to certain conditions, but if doing so compromises its ability to meet downstream obligations, Northwest must rank receipt points according to the degree of violation.

metering facilities were placed into service on September 30, 2004, it took PNG and its upstream partners longer than anticipated to obtain permits for some of the other construction and systems needed to utilize the low-Btu gas wells for the program. This caused a delay in the initiation of a fully functional pilot program until September 1, 2005. To provide the originally contemplated full year of experience to implement and evaluate the pilot program, Northwest requests an extension of the limited waiver of its tariff's section 3.5 until September 1, 2006.

3. Good cause exists to grant the request for extension until September 1, 2006. With less than one month of complete data obtained, the results of the pilot program are inconclusive. Therefore, to ensure that a sufficient amount of data is collected to evaluate the success of the program, we grant Northwest's request for extension of the limited waiver until September 1, 2006.

By direction of the Commission.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary