

130 FERC ¶ 61,099
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

February 11, 2010

In Reply Refer To:
Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC
Docket No. RP10-249-000

Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC
5151 San Felipe, Suite 2500
Houston, TX 77056

Attention: James R. Downs
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Reference: Request for Waiver of Tariff Provision

Dear Mr. Downs:

1. On December 18, 2009, Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia) filed a petition for limited waiver of the automatic balancing mechanism in section 40.5 of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of its FERC Gas Tariff.¹ As discussed below, the Commission conditionally grants limited waiver of the automatic balancing mechanism.

2. Columbia states that section 40.5 of the GT&C requires that Columbia's Segmentation Pool must be in balance in each nomination cycle and on a daily basis, and, therefore gas transported from the Segmentation Pool to market must equal the amount of gas supply arising from transportation into the Segmentation Pool and/or from inventory transfers. Columbia further states that, prior to implementing Navigates, its current electronic bulletin board (EBB) system, on August 1, 2008, nominations into and out of the Segmentation Pool were automatically adjusted to comply with the requirements of section 40.5. However, Columbia states that, since August 1, 2008, it has provided customers with additional time to adjust to the Navigates system, and has not implemented the automatic balancing mechanism to enforce the Segmentation Pool balancing requirements. Columbia further states that while it has informed customers

¹ Original Sheet No. 390 to FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1..

through EBB postings that it is deferring implementing the automatic pool balancing mechanism, shippers are still expected to remain in balance and Columbia reserves the right to require shippers to reduce their imbalances in accordance with section 40.5. In any case, Columbia contends that the vast majority of customers on their own have complied with the balancing requirements of section 40.5.² Columbia states that it will provide shippers with 30 days notice prior to implementing an automatic balancing mechanism through a filing in this docket and a posting on its EBB.

3. Columbia requests that the Commission grant any waivers necessary with respect to imbalances that occur until such time as programming to accommodate enforced balancing of the Segmentation Pool is implemented. Columbia states that the requested waiver is not intended to be, nor should it be construed as, granting waiver of the shippers' obligation to ensure that gas transported into the Segmentation Pool equals the gas transported from the Segmentation Pool.

4. Public notice of Columbia's filing was issued on December 22, 2009, with interventions and protests due by December 30, 2009. Pursuant to Rule 214, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2009), all timely filed motions to intervene and any 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. No adverse comments or protests were filed.

5. The Commission finds that there is good cause for granting limited waiver of section 40.5 of the GT&C related to the automatic Segmentation Pool balancing requirements, as requested by Columbia. The requested waiver is granted subject to the requirement that Columbia, at least 30 days prior to implementing such an automatic balancing mechanism for the Segmentation Pool, submits an application in this docket and post on its EBB to inform its shippers and the Commission of that implementation.

By direction of the Commission.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

² Columbia states (at 2 of the transmittal letter) that, since August 1, 2009, the net cumulative imbalance is only 0.01% of all nominations into and out of the Segmentation Pool.