

135 FERC ¶ 61, 076
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

April 26, 2011

In Reply Refer To:
Columbia Gulf Transmission Company
Docket No. RP11-1892-000

Columbia Gulf Transmission Company
5151 San Felipe, Suite 2500
Houston, TX 77056

Attention: Jim Downs, Vice President
Rates and Regulatory Affairs

Reference: Waiver of Gas Quality Gas Provision

Dear Mr. Downs:

1. On March 24, 2011, Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (Columbia Gulf) filed a request for a limited waiver of section 25.1(g) (Gas Quality) of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of its tariff for service to be provided using Columbia Gulf's East Lateral Efficiency Optimization Project (ELEOP). The Commission grants the requested waiver for 90 days subject to Columbia Gulf modifying its Gas Quality standards to include the transportation of "wet" gas through the Erath Lateral to the Neptune Processing Plant.

2. On October 28, 2010, the Commission in Docket No. CP10-437-000, issued a certificate authorizing the construction and operation of the ELEOP facilities.¹ According to the Certificate Order, the ELEOP facilities were designed to transport unprocessed wet gas from production receipt points on Columbia Gulf's system to a new processing plant.² Section 25.1(g) of Columbia Gulf's

¹ *Columbia Gulf Transmission Co.*, 133 FERC ¶ 62,099 (2010) (Certificate Order).

² *See* Certificate Order, 133 FERC ¶ 62,099 at 2. The new processing plant is the Neptune Processing Plant owned by Enterprise Products Partners located near Centerville, Louisiana.

tariff requires that all gas tendered contains not more than seven pounds of water vapor per million cubic feet. In its transmittal letter, Columbia Gulf states that it anticipates that the gas received into the ELEOP facilities will have a water vapor content of up to 22 pounds per million cubic feet. Therefore, Columbia Gulf is requesting waiver of section 25.1(g) of its Gas Quality standards to transport unprocessed gas to the processing plant for as long as the ELEOP facilities are used. For the reasons discussed below the Commission will grant Columbia Gulf's waiver request for 90 days subject to conditions.

3. Public notice of the filing was issued on March 25, 2011. Interventions and protests were due on or before April 5, 2011. Pursuant to Rule 214 (18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2010)), all timely filed motions to intervene and any unopposed 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 this proceeding or place additional burdens on existing parties. No protest or comments were filed.

4. For good cause shown, we grant Columbia Gulf a limited waiver of the Gas Quality Standards set forth in section 25.1(g) of its GT&C for 90 days. As demonstrated by the Certificate Order, the ELEOP facilities were designed to transport unprocessed wet gas from production receipt points on Columbia Gulf's system to the Neptune Processing plant, and thus a limited waiver of Columbia Gulf's water vapor specification is warranted to accomplish this objective. There is nothing in the record, however, to indicate that the gas flowing on those facilities will ever meet Columbia Gulf's tariff water vapor standard. Thus, Columbia Gulf is essentially seeking permanent waiver of its water vapor tariff standard for the ELEOP facilities. The Commission finds that for Columbia Gulf not to have express tariff language dealing with a requirement that will continue indefinitely into the future is unjust and unreasonable. Accordingly, pursuant to section 5 of the Natural Gas Act, we direct Columbia Gulf, within 30 days of the issuance of this order, to file revised Gas Quality standards to reflect the transportation of wet gas from production receipt points to the Neptune Processing plant on the ELEOP facilities, to be effective upon the expiration of the limited waiver granted herein.

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.