

141 FERC ¶ 61,082
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Commissioners: Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman;
Philip D. Moeller, John R. Norris,
Cheryl A. LaFleur, and Tony T. Clark.

Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC

Docket No. RP13-174-000

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF TARIFF PROVISION

(Issued October 31, 2012)

1. On October 22, 2012, Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia) filed a petition for a limited waiver of section 49.4(b) of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) of its tariff which requires it to file its semi-annual Operational Transactions Rate Adjustment (OTRA) by November 1, 2012. For good cause shown, we will grant Columbia's request for waiver. Accordingly, Columbia is required to submit its semi-annual OTRA Filing by December 1, 2012, as requested.

I. Background

2. On June 1, 2012, Columbia implemented the OTRA surcharge, as an interim mechanism, to recover the costs of certain operational purchases and sales required to ensure a sufficient amount of flowing supply into Columbia's system in northern Ohio. Columbia implemented the OTRA because it would result in "lower costs for its customers than rerouting gas supplies from the southwest part of its system to northern Ohio on other pipelines or requiring customers to deliver gas to northern Ohio receipt points through the use of Operational Flow Orders."¹ The OTRA will terminate on March 31, 2014.

3. To more closely align the design of the OTRA rates with projected operational needs and changes in the market, GT&C section 49 requires Columbia to revise its OTRA rates on a semi-annual basis. Columbia states it is in the process of analyzing the data under the OTRA rates and has shared preliminary rate estimates with its customers. However, Columbia currently only has final accounting data for OTRA transactions

¹ *Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,141, at P 16 (2012).

undertaken through September 30, 2012. Columbia states the preliminary data indicates that the OTRA continues to be the least-cost solution for declining supply in northern Ohio.

II. Waiver Request

4. In order to ensure that the revised OTRA rates reflect as accurately as possible Columbia's actual OTRA costs, Columbia requests waiver of the filing date requirement of GT&C section 49 in order to permit it a one-month extension to file its semi-annual OTRA Filing on December 1, 2012. Columbia states it will continue to communicate with its customers during this period regarding the proposed OTRA rates and the factors impacting those rates.

III. Public Notice, Intervention, and Comments

5. Notice of Columbia's Filing was issued on October 23, 2012. Interventions and protests were due October 29, 2012. Pursuant to Rule 214, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2012), 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 protests or adverse comments were filed.

IV. Discussion

6. In support of its request for waiver, Columbia states that it is attempting to ensure that the revised OTRA rates reflect as accurately as possible Columbia's actual costs. Therefore, the Commission will grant Columbia's request for a one-month extension to file its semi-annual OTRA Filing for good cause shown. Accordingly, by December 1, 2012, Columbia is required to submit its semi-annual OTRA Filing, in accordance with its tariff.

The Commission orders:

Columbia's request for waiver is granted, so that Columbia is required to make its semi-annual OTRA Filing by December 1, 2012.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.