



Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.
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Phone 270/852-5000

Cindy C. Thompson
Manager, Regulatory
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October 21, 2019

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.
Prior Notice Request to Abandon
Delivery Point and Related Lateral Line in
Ellsworth County, Kansas
Docket No. CP20-____-000

Dear Secretary Bose:

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. ("Southern Star"), pursuant to the authority of its blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-479-000 and the provisions of Sections 157.205 and 157.216(b) of the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission"), herewith submits for eFiling a Prior Notice Application seeking authorization to abandon a delivery point (Location 495501) and approximately 1.6 miles of related 3-inch and 4-inch lateral line on its Line XW-004 in Ellsworth County, Kansas.

The electronic files include the following documents, which have been classified as "Public" or "Privileged and Confidential" as noted below.

Volume I - Public Files:

- This transmittal letter describing the filing and its content
- Prior Notice Request
- Form of Notice
- Attachment 1 – Oath Statement and Customer Consents to Abandonment
- Attachment 2 – Proposed Accounting Treatment of Abandonment
- Attachment 3 – Environmental Report
- Attachment 4 – Topographic Map

Volume II - Privileged and Confidential Files:

- Attachment 3, Appendix D – Landowner List

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary

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Pursuant to the Commission's electronic filing guide, Southern Star is eFiling this Prior Notice and will provide two complete paper copies to the Commission's Office of Energy Projects (OEP Room 62-46).

Please call the undersigned at (270) 852-4655 with any questions regarding the documents.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Cindy C. Thompson

Manager, Regulatory

Enclosures

In the Matter of)
) Docket No. CP20-_____-000
Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.)

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (“Southern Star”) herewith submits a prior notice request under the provisions of its blanket certificate (Docket No. CP82-479-000) and Sections 157.205 and 157.216(b) of the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) for authorization to abandon a delivery point and approximately 1.6 miles of related 3-inch and 4-inch lateral line in Ellsworth County, Kansas.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence and communications in regard to this request are to be addressed as follows:

Cindy Thompson
Manager, Regulatory
Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.
4700 State Highway 56
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301
cindy.thompson@southernstar.com

Douglas Field
Senior Attorney
Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.
4700 State Highway 56
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301
w.doug.field@southernstar.com

The above listed persons are designated to receive service pursuant to Rule 2010 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §385.2010 (2011), and eService is requested in lieu of paper copies.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING OPERATIONS

Southern Star owns and operates an interstate pipeline transmission system consisting of approximately 5,800 miles of pipeline and eight underground natural gas storage fields that delivers clean, affordable natural gas to a variety of natural gas customers, including local distribution companies who in turn redeliver that gas to residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers across the Midwest and Mid-Continent regions.

REQUEST TO ABANDON FACILITIES

Pursuant to this prior notice, Southern Star seeks authorization to abandon a delivery point (Location 495501) and approximately 1.6 miles of related 3-inch and 4-inch lateral line on its Line Segment XW-004 serving Location 495501 in Ellsworth County, Kansas. Southern Star has no firm contracts with Location 495501 as a primary delivery point and receives less than \$200.00 revenue annually for interruptible and secondary deliveries to Location 495501, the only active delivery point on this segment of Line XW-004.¹ However, expensive leak repairs and other

¹ Southern Star's Line XW-004 was also connected to its 4-inch Line XW-075 used to serve the former Acme Brick Kanopolis Brick Plant at Southern Star's Location 204001. Southern Star's firm transportation contract with Acme

improvements are needed to keep this portion of Line XW-004 in service and continue service to Location 495501. Maintenance of this aging line segment, which as noted below was part of the original interstate natural gas pipeline system operated by Cities Service Gas Company (Southern Star's predecessor), is simply no longer economical solely for continued interruptible and secondary service to Location 495501.

Clearwater Enterprises, L.L.C. ("Clearwater") is the only shipper to have delivered gas to Location 495501 in the last 12 months. Clearwater's deliveries to Location 495501 were made either under its interruptible transportation agreement TA8518 or as secondary deliveries under various capacity release replacement contracts. Clearwater has provided its written consent to the abandonment of Location 495501 and the related lateral line.

Clearwater's customer is KCI, Inc. ("KCI"), the owner of the Independent Salt Company ("Independent Salt"), which operates its Kanopolis salt plant behind Location 495501. Neither KCI nor Independent Salt are customers of Southern Star, however, Southern Star has agreed to assist KCI in converting from natural gas to propane. As a result, KCI, on behalf of itself, its agents and its affiliates, has also provided its written consent to the abandonment of Location 495501 and the related lateral line.

LOCATION, TYPE, SIZE, AND LENGTH OF THE FACILITIES

18 C.F.R. §157.216(c)(1)

The specific facilities to be abandoned are located in or near Kanopolis in Ellsworth County, Kansas. Southern Star will mechanically plug the 4-inch section of Line XW-004 just east of where its 3-inch Line XW-081 connects with Line XW-004. All of Line XW-004 east of that point (approximately 0.1 miles of 4-inch pipe and 1.5 miles of 3-inch pipe) will then be abandoned in place. Location 495501 will be abandoned and all above ground facilities at that location

Brick expired October 1, 2010 after the closure of that plant and no deliveries have been made to Location 204001 for several years. Location 204001 and Line XW-075 have been automatically abandoned under 18 C.F.R. Section 157.216(a)(1) pursuant to Southern Star's blanket certificate (Docket No. CP82-479-000). That abandonment will be separately reported in Southern Star's annual certificate report and does not require an application with the Commission.

reclaimed, including meter setting 2286. Southern Star will pull the valve can to the salt plant (and the already abandoned brick plant) after the reclaim is complete.

The estimated cost of replicating the facilities to be abandoned pursuant to this filing is approximately \$565,000. This cost is less than the prior notice project cost limit in Column 2 of Table 1 to Part 157 as published in 18 C.F.R. Section 157.208 (2019).

PRIOR DOCKET INFORMATION

18 C.F.R. §157.216(c)(2)

Line XW-004 and the delivery point to the Independent Salt plant were part of the original interstate natural gas pipeline system operated by Cities Service Gas Company (Southern Star's predecessor) when it received its grandfathered certificate of public convenience and necessity in 1943 under the NGA in Federal Power Commission Docket No. G-298.²

Southern Star knows of no other applications related to the proposed abandonment of the delivery point and related lateral pipeline.

CUSTOMERS' CONSENT

18 C.F.R. §157.216(c)(3)

Section 157.216(b)(1) of the Commission's regulations permits abandonment of a delivery point that has been used to provide firm or interruptible service during the past year, subject to the notice requirements of Section 157.205, "if all of the existing customers of the pipeline served through the ... delivery point consent in writing to the abandonment." Section 157.216(c)(3) of the Commission's regulations requires an applicant to submit a statement that all customers served during the past year by the subject facilities have consented to the proposed abandonment or an explanation of why such consent is not available.

As noted above, Clearwater, the only customer of Southern Star served by the subject facilities during the past year, and Independent Salt, Clearwater's only customer behind Location 495501, have each consented to the proposed abandonment. Attached as Attachment 1 is an oath statement on behalf of Southern Star that all customers served during the past year by the

² See *Cities Service Gas Co.*, 4 FPC 471 (1943) (Docket No. G-298).

subject facilities have consented to the proposed abandonment, as well as copies of the written consents of Clearwater and Independent Salt.

Consistent with Section 157.216(b)(1), a copy of this request to abandon is also being provided to the Kansas Corporation Commission, which has regulatory authority over retail service in Kansas.

COST AND ACCOUNTING TREATMENT

18 C.F.R. §157.216(c)(4)

The anticipated total cost of the Project is estimated to be approximately \$145,000, for which internally generated funds have or will be used. The proposed accounting treatment of the abandonment is shown in Attachment 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND MAP

18 C.F.R. §157.216(c)(5)

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. Section 380.4(a)(21), environmental data is generally not required to be filed for a prior notice filing under 18 C.F.R. Section 157.216(b). Further, Southern Star believes this abandonment in place of a minor natural gas pipeline and removal of minor surface facilities also qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 18 C.F.R. Section 380.4(a)(28) (2019). Notwithstanding the foregoing, attached as Attachment 3 is an abbreviated Environmental Report containing a concise analysis discussing the relevant issues described in 18 C.F.R. Section 380.12. Any earth disturbance associated with removal of the delivery meter and the pipeline abandonment is minimal and is limited to the area immediately around the meter or the associated pipe and is within the existing right-of way. Southern Star will comply with the environmental compliance conditions in 18 C.F.R. Section 157.206 (b). As demonstrated in the report, any environmental impacts are minimal, and the Project can be completed in an environmentally acceptable manner.

A USGS 7½ -minute-series (scale 1:24,000 or 1:25,000) topographic map (or map of equivalent or greater detail, as appropriate) showing the location of the affected facilities is included in Attachment 4.

FORM OF NOTICE AND ATTACHMENTS

A proposed notice suitable for publication in the Federal Register is included herewith.

In accordance with Section 157.216(c) of the Commission's Regulations, the following attachments are also submitted herewith:

Attachment 1	<u>Oath Statement and Customer Consents to Abandonment</u>
Attachment 2	<u>Proposed Accounting Treatment of Abandonment</u>
Attachment 3	<u>Environmental Report</u>
Attachment 4	<u>Topographic Map</u>
Attachment 3, Appendix D	<u>Affected Landowner List</u> (Privileged and Confidential) submitted separately

Copies of this Request will be sent to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Missouri Public Service Commission and the Kansas Corporation Commission.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Abandonment of the delivery point known as Location 495501 and the approximately 1.6 miles of related 3-inch and 4-inch delivery lateral on Southern Star's Line XW-004 serves the public convenience and necessity. Location 495501 is the only remaining delivery point on this segment of Line XW-004, which is a part of the original interstate natural gas pipeline system operated by Cities Service Gas Company (Southern Star's predecessor) when it received its grandfathered certificate of public convenience and necessity in 1943. Southern Star has no firm contracts with Location 495501 as a primary delivery point. Southern Star receives less than \$200.00 revenue annually for interruptible and secondary capacity release deliveries to Location 495501. Potentially expensive repairs and improvements are needed to keep this portion of Line XW-004 in service in order to continue service to Location 495501. Simply put, maintenance of this aging line segment for continued interruptible service or secondary firm service to Location 495501 is no longer economical. The only customer of Southern Star using these facilities in the

last twelve months has consented in writing to the abandonment. Though not a customer of the pipeline, Southern Star is assisting the only end-user behind Location 495501 to convert from natural gas service to propane, and that end-user has also consented to the proposed abandonment.

For the reasons stated above, the proposed abandonment is in the present and future public convenience and necessity and should be allowed to go forward.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Southern Star requests that the Commission, after giving public notice of this filing, allow Southern Star to abandon the facilities and perform the activities herein described.

Respectfully submitted,
Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.

/s/ Cindy C. Thompson

Cindy C. Thompson
Manager, Regulatory

VERIFICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)
) ss:
COUNTY OF DAVIESS)

Cindy C. Thompson, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that she is Manager, Regulatory for Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.; that as such she is authorized to sign and verify the foregoing Request for Authorization to abandon a delivery point (Location 495501) and approximately 1.6 miles of related 3-inch and 4-inch lateral line on its Line Segment XW-004 in Ellsworth County, Kansas; that she has read the filing and is familiar with the contents thereof; that the matters and things set forth therein are true and correct to the best of her information, knowledge and belief; and that the proposed activity complies with the requirements of Subpart F of Part 157 of the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to the best of her information, knowledge and belief.

/s/ Cindy C. Thompson
Cindy C. Thompson
Manager, Regulatory

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 21st day of October 2019.

/s/ Shelley N. Payne
Notary Public
Kentucky State at Large

My Commission expires October 30, 2021.
Notary ID #588625

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.

Docket No. CP20 -

PRIOR NOTICE OF ACTIVITY UNDER BLANKET CERTIFICATE

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Take notice that on _____, Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (Southern Star) filed a prior notice request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.216(b) of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations under the Natural Gas Act, and Southern Star's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-479-000, for authorization to abandon a delivery point (Location 495501) and approximately 1.6 miles of related 3-inch and 4-inch lateral line on its Line Segment XW-004 in Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Southern Star's Line XW-004 and the Location 495501 delivery point were part of the original interstate natural gas pipeline system operated by Cities Service Gas Company (Southern Star's predecessor) when it received its grandfathered certificate of public convenience and necessity in 1943 under the NGA. Southern Star has no firm contracts with Location 495501 as a primary delivery point and receives less than \$200.00 revenue annually for interruptible and secondary deliveries to Location 495501, the only active delivery point on the segment of Line XW-004 being abandoned. However, potentially expensive leak repairs and other improvements are needed to keep this portion of Line XW-004 in service and continue service to Location 495501. Maintenance of this aging line segment is simply no longer economical solely for continued interruptible and secondary service to Location 495501. All of Southern Star's customers served during the past year by the subject facilities have consented to the proposed abandonment.

Any questions concerning this prior notice request should be directed to Cindy Thompson, Manager, Regulatory, Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc., 4700 Highway 56, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301, by phone at (270) 852-4655, or by email to cindy.thompson@southernstar.com.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 60 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205), a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefore, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not

withdrawn within 30 days after the allowed time for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA.

Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such motions or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant. On or before the comment date, it is not necessary to serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of comments, protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the “eFiling” link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the “eLibrary” link and is available for review in the Commission’s Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an “eSubscription” link on the web site that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Comment Date: 5:00 pm Eastern Time on (insert date).

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

ATTACHMENT 1
OATH STATEMENT AND
CUSTOMER CONSENTS TO ABANDONMENT

VOLUME I
PUBLIC

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)
) ss:
COUNTY OF DAVIESS)

/s/ Cindy C. Thompson
Cindy C. Thompson
Manager, Regulatory

/s/ Shelley N. Payne
Notary Public
Kentucky State at Large

My Commission expires October 30, 2021.
Notary ID #588625

ATTACHMENT 2
PROPOSED ACCOUNTING TREATMENT
OF ABANDONMENT

VOLUME I
PUBLIC

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.

Proposed Accounting Treatment

Job: R62275

Description: RECLAIM SALT PLANT SETTING 2286 AND ABANDON APPROX 1.6 MI OF LINE XW004 ELLSWORTH CO KS

To Change Appropriate Utility Plant Accounts
With Original Cost of Property Retired

108	Retirement Work In Progress	\$	21,599	
101 36701001	MAINS		\$	8,216
101 36901001	M&R EQUIP		\$	13,383

To Record Removal Cost and Salvage

108	Retirement Work in Progress	\$	123,600	
131	Salvage Proceeds	\$	-	
131	Removal Costs		\$	123,600

To Transfer Balances in Retirement Work In Progress to
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation of Gas Plant in Service

108	Accumulated Provision for Depreciation of Gas Plant in Service	\$	145,199	
108	Retirement Work in Progress		\$	145,199

**This project has not been closed and additional costs and/or salvage may be incurred.