



**Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.**  
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Owensboro, Kentucky 42301  
Phone 270/852-5000

*Cindy C. Thompson*  
*Manager, Regulatory*  
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November 4, 2019

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

Re: Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.  
Midwest Market Access Project  
Montgomery County, KS

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(b), 157.208(c), and 157.210 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations herewith submits for eFiling a Prior Notice Application seeking authorization to construct, operate and maintain its Midwest Market Access Project ("Project") in Montgomery County, Kansas.

The electronic files include the following documents, which have been classified as "Public", "Privileged and Confidential" or "Critical Energy Infrastructure Information" (CEII) as noted below.

Public Files

- This transmittal letter describing the filing and its content
- Form of Notice
- Prior Notice of Proposed Blanket Certificate Activity. Proposed activity is modifications to Southern Star's Grabham Compressor Station in Montgomery County, Kansas
- Attachment 1 – General Location Map
- Attachment 2 – Topographic Map
- Attachment 4 – Environmental Report

Privileged and Confidential File:

- Volume II Appendix J – List of Affected Landowners - Privileged and Confidential

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Critical Energy Infrastructure Information File

Attachment 3 – System Flow Diagrams – Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII)

Southern Star submits the attached System Flow Diagrams that meet the definition of CEII as found in Section 388.113 of the Commission's regulations and therefore requests that the Commission accord treatment to the eFiled documents concerning CEII information in a manner consistent with Section 133.112 of the Commission's regulations. Accordingly, all pages of the system flow diagrams are clearly marked "**Contains Critical Energy Infrastructure Information-Do Not Release**".

Pursuant to the Commission's electronic filing guide,<sup>1</sup> Southern Star is eFiling this Prior Notice and will provide two complete copies to the Commission (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

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Filing Guide/Qualified Documents List (February 14, 2017), available at <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing.pdf>.

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

**Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.**

**Docket No. CP20 -**

**PRIOR NOTICE OF ACTIVITY UNDER BLANKET CERTIFICATE**

(                      )

Take notice that on \_\_\_\_\_, Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (Southern Star) filed a prior notice request pursuant to Sections 157.205(b), 157.208(c), and 157.210 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 construct, operate and maintain its Midwest Market Access Project in Montgomery County, Kansas.

The proposed modifications and replacements within Southern Star's Grabham Compressor Station ("Grabham") will increase the throughput at Grabham by enabling Unit #13 to pump gas into the southern trunk line ("Line FR"). This will create up to an additional 40,000 Dth/d of firm transportation capacity in Southern Star's market area, of which 25,000 Dth/d has been sold pursuant to the Empire Precedent Agreement. The remainder of the firm capacity created by the modifications at Grabham will be posted as unsubscribed capacity and available to serve other markets on Southern Star pursuant to Southern Star's tariff. The Project will be conducted entirely within the footprint of Southern Star's existing Grabham Compressor Station with minimal impact on affected landowners and the environment.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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 construct, operate and maintain its Midwest Market Access Project in Montgomery 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 4th day of November 2019.

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

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

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

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State of Delaware and is duly authorized to conduct business in the states of Colorado, Delaware, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming. Southern Star is a natural gas company, as defined in Section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act (“NGA”), engaged in the business of storing and transporting natural gas in interstate commerce under authorizations granted by the Commission.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 32 compressor stations, 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 MODIFY FACILITIES**

Pursuant to this prior notice, Southern Star seeks authorization to make modifications and replacements within its Grabham Compressor Station to increase the throughput at Grabham by enabling Unit #13 to pump gas into the southern trunk loop (“Line FR”). This will

create up to an additional 40,000 Dth/d of firm transportation capacity in Southern Star's market area. Following a non-binding open season for the Project, Southern Star entered into a Precedent Agreement with Empire, pursuant to which Empire will contract for five years for an additional 25,000 Dth/d of service from Southern Star's Production Market Interface to the Empire Energy Center under Southern Star's Rate Schedule FTS-M.<sup>1</sup> The remainder of the firm capacity created by the modifications at Grabham will be posted as unsubscribed capacity.

There are no other applications related to this request.

### **PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED FACILITIES**

18 C.F.R. §157.208(c)(1) and (2)

The purpose of the proposed modifications within Grabham is to create up to an additional 40,000 Dth/d of firm market area transportation capacity, of which 25,000 Dth/d has been sold pursuant to the Empire Precedent Agreement. To accomplish this increase in capacity, the Grabham yard piping will be modified to allow Unit #13 to discharge gas into the southern trunk loop, which operates at a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 877 psig. These modifications include building new pulsation bottles for the changed suction and discharge conditions, replacement of the existing piping between the scrubber and the pulsation bottles, addition of a support on the head end of the cylinders, and new flywheel and modification of existing covers.

Specifically, the existing 11C (11.00" bore) cylinders on Unit #13 at Grabham will be changed and replaced with 12-3/8CM (11.75" bore) cylinders that will be able to move additional volumes within the operating ranges below:

Suction: 380 – 595 psig (mainline pressure)

Discharge: 600 – 850 psig (mainline pressure)

Unit speed – 1000 – 750 RPM

The existing discharge piping on Unit #13 will be replaced from the new pulsation bottles to valves 209 and 210. Replacement of the Unit #13 discharge piping is necessary because the

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<sup>1</sup> Empire's FTS-M service will initially be at a discounted rate; however, pursuant to the discount agreement, Empire may shorten the discount time period to four years and elect to pay maximum rates for the last year of the contract term in order to qualify for a right of first refusal under Southern Star's tariff.



existing 16" piping is not rated for the 877 psig MAOP required for deliveries into the southern trunk loop. This will require new 16" piping to be installed at the cooler, as well as an ANSI 600 16" remotely actuated ball valve and check valve. All new piping will be tested at a minimum of 1316 psig to meet 877 MAOP.

The existing gas cooler, which is currently only rated for 825 psig, will also be replaced in order to accept the higher pressure when the unit is used to pump gas onto the southern trunk loop at its MAOP of 877 psig. However, only the cooler bundle will be replaced; the existing frame and motors will not be removed or modified.

#### **MAPS SHOWING LOCATION OF FACILITIES**

18 C.F.R. §157.208(c)(3) and (4)

A map showing the general relationship of the proposed facilities to the applicant's existing facilities is attached as Attachment 1.

A USGS 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> -minute-series (scale 1:24,000 or 1:25,000) topographic map showing the location of the affected facilities is included in Attachment 2.

#### **FLOW DIAGRAMS**

18 C.F.R. §157.208(c)(5)

Attached as Attachment 3 are flow diagrams showing daily design capacity, daily maximum capacity and operating pressures with and without the proposed Grabham modifications.

#### **ESTIMATED COST**

18 CFR §157.208(c)(6)

The anticipated total cost of the Project is estimated to be approximately \$3.0 million, for which internally generated funds have or will be used. 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).

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND COMMITMENT**

18 C.F.R. §157.208(c)(9) and (10)

Attached as Attachment 4 is an abbreviated Environmental Report containing a concise analysis discussing the relevant issues described in 18 CFR §380.12. All work related to this prior notice will be done within the existing Grabham station footprint. As demonstrated in the report, any environmental impacts are minimal, and the Project can be completed in an environmentally acceptable manner. Southern Star commits to having the Environmental Inspector's report filed every week.

## **FORM OF NOTICE AND ATTACHMENTS**

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

In accordance with Section 157.208(c) of the Commission's Regulations, the following attachments are also submitted herewith:

Attachment 1	<u>General Location Map</u>
Attachment 2	<u>Topographic Map</u>
Attachment 3	<u>Flow Diagrams</u> (Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) submitted separately)
Attachment 4	<u>Environmental Report</u>
Attachment 4, Appendix J	<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**

18 C.F.R. §157.208(c)(7)

The proposed modifications and replacements within Southern Star's Grabham Compressor Station will create up to an additional 40,000 Dth/d of firm transportation capacity

in Southern Star's market area. The modifications are supported by a Precedent Agreement with Empire, pursuant to which Empire will contract for five years for an additional 25,000 Dth/d of firm transportation service from Southern Star's Production Market Interface to the Empire Energy Center under Southern Star's Rate Schedule FTS-M. The remainder of the firm capacity created by the modifications at Grabham will be posted as unsubscribed capacity and available to serve other markets on Southern Star pursuant to Southern Star's tariff. The Project will be conducted entirely within the footprint of Southern Star's existing Grabham Compressor Station with minimal impact on affected landowners and the environment.

Accordingly, the Project and the proposed modifications in the 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 construct 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