



WILLISTON BASIN

INTERSTATE PIPELINE COMPANY
A Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

February 11, 2004

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company
Docket No. PF03-3-000 - Grasslands Expansion Project
Termination of NEPA Pre-filing Process

Dear Ms. Salas:

Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company (Williston Basin) is herein filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) in Docket No. PF03-3-000 an original and seven copies of its request to discontinue all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pre-filing process activities related to the Grasslands Expansion Project.

Description of Proceeding

On April 21, 2003, Williston Basin notified the Commission of its request to initiate the Commission's NEPA pre-filing process for its Grasslands Expansion Project. The Grasslands Expansion Project consisted of the construction of three new compressor stations and the addition of compression at the Manning Compressor Station. The Grasslands Expansion Project would add an additional 120,000 Mcf/d of firm transportation capacity to the Grasslands Pipeline. On April 30, 2003, the Office of Energy Projects granted Williston's Basin's request to initiate the NEPA pre-filing process and approved ENSR, Inc. as the third party contractor to work under the direct supervision and control of the Commission Staff in the preparation of the NEPA documentation.

WILLISTON BASIN INTERSTATE PIPELINE COMPANY

Termination of the NEPA Pre-filing Process

At the time Williston Basin filed its letter request to initiate the NEPA pre-filing process for the Grasslands Expansion Project, Williston Basin stated that it believed the Grasslands Expansion Project would be fully subscribed by the time the application was filed. To date, that has not occurred.

By this letter Williston Basin is officially notifying the Commission of its desire to terminate the NEPA pre-filing process in the above-referenced docket, without prejudice to the re-filing of its request at a later date. Williston Basin appreciates the time and effort expended by the Commission and its Staff in the processing of the request.

Williston Basin also wishes to apprise the Commission of its intent to go forward in 2004 with the construction and operation of the following jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional facilities for existing service requirements in 2004. The jurisdictional facilities, consisting of approximately 8 miles of 12-inch Baker Supply Lateral from the proposed Baker Booster Station to the Grasslands Pipeline; the Baker Receipt Station at the terminus of the Baker Supply Lateral; and approximately one-half mile of 12-inch supply lateral from the Baker Receipt Station to the existing Baker-Cabin Creek pipeline, will be constructed under Williston Basin's Blanket Certificate Authority¹ pursuant to Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations. The non-jurisdictional gathering facilities, consisting of the Baker Booster Station northwest of Baker, Montana at the same location as the Baker Receipt Station; approximately 18.5 miles of 16-inch low pressure gathering trunk line from Williston Basin's East Baker and South Baker field gathering compressors to the proposed Baker Booster Station; and one additional field

¹ By the Commission's Order dated February 13, 1985 in Docket Nos. CP82-487-000, et al. (30 FERC ¶61,143), Williston Basin was authorized to acquire and operate the interstate pipeline facilities previously owned and operated by MDU Resources Group, Inc. (MDU), its parent company, as well as to provide certificated services previously provided by MDU, effective January 1, 1985. MDU was originally granted blanket certificate authority in Docket Nos. CP83-1-000, et al.

WILLISTON BASIN INTERSTATE PIPELINE COMPANY

gathering compressor in the existing South Baker Field gathering compressor station, will also be constructed during 2004.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this filing, please call the undersigned at (701) 530-1560. Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter provided herewith.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Tiggelaar
Director of Regulatory Affairs

cc: J. Rich McGuire
FERC - Room 6J-02
Office of Energy Projects
FERC - Room 6A-01