

170 FERC ¶ 61,248
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Commissioners: Neil Chatterjee, Chairman;
Richard Glick and Bernard L. McNamee.

Spire STL Pipeline LLC

Docket No. RP20-417-000

ORDER ACCEPTING COMPLIANCE FILING, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS, AND
GRANTING REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

(Issued March 24, 2020)

1. On January 8, 2020, Spire STL Pipeline LLC (Spire) filed a tariff record¹ to comply with most of the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) Version 3.1 business practice standards (Version 3.1 Standards) adopted by NAESB's Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) applicable to interstate natural gas pipelines, and incorporated by reference by the Commission in Order No. 587-Y² (Filing).
2. In the Filing, Spire also requests an extension of time to comply with certain of the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards. As discussed below, we accept Spire's tariff record referenced in footnote no. 1, to become effective November 18, 2019, as requested, subject to conditions.³ Further, we grant Spire's request for an extension of time to comply with certain of the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards, as discussed in the body of this order.

¹ Spire STL Pipeline LLC, FERC NGA Gas Tariff, FERC Gas Tariff, [Section 6.2, GTC - NAESB Standards and Internet Web Site, 1.0.0.](#)

² *Standards for Bus. Practices of Interstate Nat. Gas Pipelines*, Order No. 587-Y, 165 FERC ¶ 61,109 (2018) (Order No. 587-Y).

³ Spire states that November 18, 2019 is the date on which it placed its interstate natural gas pipeline facilities in service. Spire Filing at 2.

I. Background

3. On November 15, 2018, the Commission issued Order No. 587-Y, a Final Rule amending its regulations⁴ to incorporate by reference the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards. The revisions made by NAESB in this version of the standards are designed to clarify the processing of certain business transactions. Notably, NAESB adopted two substantive revisions to its Nominations Related Standards, one to establish a standard rounding process for elapsed-prorated-scheduled quantity⁵ calculations and a second to revise the specifications for the information to be included in a nomination request. Under Order No. 587-Y,⁶ interstate natural gas pipelines were required to comply with the standards incorporated by reference in Order No. 587-Y on and after August 1, 2019.⁷

4. On August 3, 2018, the Commission granted Spire's requested extension of time to comply with certain of the NAESB WGQ Version 3.0 Standards.⁸ In the instant filing, Spire requests a continuation of its extension of time so that it will be excused from its obligation to comply with certain of the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards.⁹ Spire argues that good cause exists to grant its request.

⁴ 18 C.F.R. § 284.12 (2019).

⁵ Standard 1.2.12 of the Nominations Related Standards defines the elapsed-prorated-scheduled quantity to mean:

That portion of the scheduled quantity that would have theoretically flowed up to the effective time of the intraday nomination being confirmed, based upon a cumulative uniform hourly quantity for each nomination period affected.

⁶ Order No. 587-Y, 165 FERC ¶ 61,109 at P 23.

⁷ In compliance with Order No. 587-Y, Spire is submitting a tariff record to comply with most of the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards, to take effect on November 18, 2019.

⁸ *Spire STL Pipeline LLC*, 164 FERC ¶ 61,085, at PP 177-181 (2018) (*Spire*).

⁹ NAESB WGQ Versions 3.1 Standards 1.3.3, 1.3.9, 1.3.11, 1.3.13, 1.3.17, 1.3.18, 1.3.20, 1.3.21, 1.3.23, 1.3.48, 1.3.53, 1.3.55, 1.3.56, 1.3.58, 1.3.62, 1.4.2, 1.4.7, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.11, 2.3.13, 2.3.14, 2.3.32, 2.3.40, 2.4.2, 2.4.6 through 2.4.8, 3.3.6, 3.3.23, 3.3.24, 3.4.1 through 3.4.4, 4.3.1 through 4.3.3, 4.3.42 through 4.3.47, 4.3.49, 4.3.50, 4.3.52 through 4.3.55, 4.3.57, 4.3.58, 4.3.60 through 4.3.62, 4.3.66 through 4.3.69, 4.3.72, 4.3.75, 4.3.78, 4.3.79, 4.3.80, 4.3.81 through 4.3.87, 5.3.10 through 5.3.12, 5.3.65, 5.3.70 through 5.3.72, 5.4.14 through 5.4.17, 5.4.20 through 5.4.27, 10.3.5 through 10.3.11, 10.3.14, 10.3.15, 10.3.22, and 10.3.23.

II. Notice of Filing

5. Notice of Spire's filing was published in the *Federal Register*, 85 Fed. Reg. 2420 (2020), with protests due on or before January 21, 2020. No protests or adverse comments were filed.

III. Discussion

A. Extension of Time to Implement Electronic Data Interchange, Electronic Delivery Mechanism, and Internet Electronic Transport Requirements

6. Spire requests a continuation of its extension of time to implement NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards relating to various Electronic Data Interchange (EDI),¹⁰ Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM),¹¹ and IET¹² requirements until 150 days after it receives a request from a Spire shipper to implement EDI or send information via EDM.¹³ Spire states that it is a small, one-customer pipeline with only two receipt points and two delivery points. Spire asserts that it does not have prior infrastructure in place to provide such electronic data services.¹⁴ Spire contends that complying with various EDI, EDM, and IET requirements at this time would be unnecessarily burdensome while providing little or no benefit to its current customer or potential customers.¹⁵ Spire states that the Commission previously has granted it an extension of time to comply with these Standards.¹⁶ For good

¹⁰ EDI standards require computer-to-computer electronic data interchange of information in files as mapped from the NAESB WGQ datasets and communicated between trading partners over the Internet using the NAESB Internet Electronic Transport (IET).

¹¹ EDM standards relate to the use of the Internet for pertinent business practice and electronic communications.

¹² IET refers to electronic transaction messaging standards which, in concert with Quadrant-specific EDM (QEDMs), enable NAESB parties to securely and reliably exchange transactions over the Internet.

¹³ Spire Filing at 3.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Spire*, 164 FERC ¶ 61,085 at PP 177-179 (where the Commission granted the requested extensions of time to implement the requirements set forth in certain of the NAESB WGQ Version 3.0 Standards relating to electronic data services.).

cause shown, we grant Spire an extension of time to comply with EDI, EDM, and IET requirements, as requested.¹⁷ The extension of time is limited to the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards promulgated by Order No. 587-Y,¹⁸ and will be in effect until 150 days after Spire receives a request from a Spire shipper to offer the EDI, EDM, and IET transactions or data via its website.

7. Consistent with Commission precedent, we clarify that the extension of time granted herein does not apply to the requirements set forth in the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards related to the posting of proprietary location codes¹⁹ on the pipeline's Internet website.²⁰

¹⁷ NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards 1.3.3, 1.3.9, 1.3.11, 1.3.13, 1.3.20, 1.3.21, 1.3.23, 1.3.48, 1.3.53, 1.3.55, 1.3.56, 1.3.58, 1.3.62, 1.4.2, 1.4.7, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.11, 2.3.13, 2.3.14, 2.3.32, 2.3.40, 2.4.2, 2.4.6 through 2.4.8, 3.3.23, 3.3.24, 3.4.1 through 3.4.4, 4.3.1 through 4.3.3, 4.3.42 through 4.3.47, 4.3.49, 4.3.50, 4.3.52 through 4.3.55, 4.3.57, 4.3.58, 4.3.60 through 4.3.62, 4.3.66 through 4.3.69, 4.3.72, 4.3.75, 4.3.78, 4.3.79, 4.3.80, 4.3.81 through 4.3.87, 5.3.10 through 5.3.12, 5.3.70 through 5.3.72, 5.4.14 through 5.4.17, 5.4.20 through 5.4.27, 10.3.5 through 10.3.11, 10.3.14, 10.3.15, 10.3.22, and 10.3.23.

¹⁸ See *B-R Pipeline Co.*, 128 FERC ¶ 61,126, at P 6 (2009) (each time the Commission adopts new versions of the standards, a pipeline seeking to retain an existing waiver must request a waiver of the new standards).

¹⁹ Proprietary location codes are used by interstate pipelines to identify active interconnection points, referenced in their Form No. 549B, Index of Customers, through the website postings.

²⁰ See *Equitrans L.P.*, 153 FERC ¶ 61,320, at PP 10-13 (2015) (where the Commission explained that compliance with the requirements set forth in the Standards as they apply to the posting on a pipeline's Internet website of information on proprietary location codes does not require an interstate pipeline to incur substantial additional software upgrade costs, and enables the Commission and customers to continue to identify active interconnection points through the website postings). Further, Standard 4.3.23, relating to an Informational Postings website, provides in relevant part that "Transportation Service Providers should establish an Informational Postings [website] accessible via the Internet, which contains [categories and subcategories]."

B. Extension of Time of Pooling Standards

8. Spire requests a continuation of its extension of time of the NAESB WGQ Standards governing pooling.²¹ Spire states that it currently expects that any pooling activity will occur upstream of the interconnection between Spire and Rockies Express Pipeline LLC and Enable Mississippi River Transmission, LLC.²² Spire asserts, however, that pooling may be feasible on Spire's system.²³ Therefore, Spire requests an extension of time to comply with the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards relating to pooling until 180 days following the receipt of a bona fide request from a Spire shipper to commence compliance with the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards relating to pooling.²⁴ Spire states that the Commission previously has granted other pipelines an extension of time to comply with these Standards.²⁵ We grant Spire an extension of time to comply with the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards relating to pooling²⁶ until 180 days following its receipt of a bona fide request from a Spire shipper, at which time Spire must commence compliance with the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards relating to pooling.

C. Extension of Time of Requirement to Support Index-Based Capacity Releases

9. Spire requests a continuation of its extension of time of NAESB WGQ Standard 5.3.65, which is a business practice standard that requires a pipeline to support index-based capacity releases. Spire asserts that there are no representative index references for its pipeline system and that its current shipper or potential shippers are unlikely to request such releases.²⁷ Spire further argues that the administrative and technical adjustments necessary to support such releases pose an unnecessary burden.²⁸ Consistent with

²¹ Pooling is (1) the aggregation of gas from multiple physical and/or logical points to a single physical or logical point and/or (2) the dis-aggregation of gas from a single physical or logical point to multiple physical and/or logical points.

²² Spire Filing at 3.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *MoGas Pipeline LLC*, 157 FERC ¶ 61,036, at P 8 (2016) (*MoGas*).

²⁶ NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards 1.3.17, 1.3.18, and 3.3.6.

²⁷ Spire Filing at 4.

²⁸ *Id.*

Commission precedent,²⁹ and Spire's contention that there are no representative index references for its pipeline system and that its current shipper or potential shippers are unlikely to request such releases, we find it reasonable not to require Spire to acquire and pay for the licenses necessary to support indices at this time. Therefore, we grant Spire an extension of time to comply with NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standard 5.3.65 and its requirement to support at least two non-public price index references until a releasing shipper requests an index-based capacity release. If such a request is made, Spire will need to pay whatever licensing costs are necessary to cover its processing of the release.³⁰

10. Accordingly, we grant the requested extension of time, effective as of November 18, 2019, the date Spire asserts that it placed its interstate natural gas pipeline facilities in-service.

D. Other Standards

11. While Spire's January 8, 2020 Filing is largely compliant with the directives in Order No. 587-Y, we find that an additional compliance filing is needed to reflect the findings in this order.³¹ Accordingly, we require Spire to file a revised tariff record within 20 days of the date of issuance of this order to:

- (1) Remove NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Definition 0.2.5 from the section titled "Standards Incorporated by Reference – Additional Standards – General – Standards" in Section No. 6.2, GTC, NAESB Standards and Internet Web Site;
- (2) Either list NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Definition 0.2.5 in a section titled "Standards Incorporated by Reference – Additional Standards – General – Definition," or include the text of the Definition; and
- (3) Either list NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standard 10.3.24 in the section titled "Standards Incorporated by Reference – Internet Electronic Transport Related Standards – Standards," or include the text of the Standard.

²⁹ *MoGas*, 157 FERC ¶ 61,036 at PP 10-11.

³⁰ Spire will not be required to support more than two indices at any time, because any subsequent releasing shippers will be able to avail themselves of the index or indices currently supported by Spire.

³¹ *See* Order No. 587-Y, 165 FERC ¶ 61,109 at P 23 & n.16 (where the Commission explained that all interstate natural gas pipelines are to file their tariff records in conformance with the sample tariff record on the Commission's website).

The Commission orders:

(A) Spire's tariff record is accepted effective November 18, 2019, subject to conditions, as discussed in the body of this order.

(B) Spire is hereby granted an extension of time, effective November 18, 2019, to comply with certain of the NAESB WGQ Version 3.1 Standards relating to electronic data services, pooling, and index-based capacity releases, as discussed in the body of this order. The extension of time granted herein is limited to the NAESB WGQ's Version 3.1 Standards promulgated by Order No. 587-Y.

(C) Consistent with the directives in this order, Spire must make a compliance filing within 20 days from the date of issuance of this order to revise its tariff to comply with this order.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.