

170 FERC ¶ 61,292
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

Alliance Pipeline L.P.

Docket No. RP15-1022-015

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO AMEND SETTLEMENT

(Issued March 30, 2020)

1. On March 18, 2020, Alliance Pipeline L.P. (Alliance) filed a motion to amend its settlement¹ to extend the deadline for Alliance to file a general Natural Gas Act (NGA) section 4 rate case by 60 days. As discussed below, we grant Alliance's request.
2. On December 15, 2016, the Commission approved a contested settlement in the above captioned docket.² Article II of the settlement requires Alliance to file an NGA section 4 general rate case by April 1, 2020.
3. Alliance states that, due to the unprecedented circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Alliance's parent company has implemented policies requiring all employees, where possible, to work remotely. Alliance explains that the sudden transition to a remote work environment hampered Alliance's ability to complete the section 4 rate filing by the April 1, 2020 deadline.³ Alliance notes that the section 4 rate case will include a proposed rate increase, and for that reason, amending the settlement to extend the time for Alliance to file the section 4 rate case will not prejudice Alliance's shippers from an earlier realization of reduced rates.⁴
4. Alliance states that in order to ensure that it can completely and accurately prepare all the necessary documents for the section 4 rate case, it is requesting to amend the

¹ While Alliance filed this request as a request for an extension of time, this request is a motion to amend a settlement because the section 4 filing deadline is part of a Commission-approved settlement. As such, we will refer throughout this order to Alliance's request as a motion to amend settlement.

² *Alliance Pipeline L.P.*, 157 FERC ¶ 61,204 (2016).

³ Alliance Filing at 3.

⁴ *Id.* at 2.

settlement to extend the deadline for filing its section 4 rate case from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. Alliance states that the 60-day extension to file the section 4 rate case will allow it to continue to prepare the filing while navigating the uncertainty and challenges associated with addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Notice of Alliance's motion was issued on March 19, 2020 with answers due on March 23, 2020. Pursuant to Rule 214⁵ of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, all timely filed motions to intervene and any unopposed motion 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 the proceeding or place additional burdens on existing parties. No party filed an answer.

6. We grant the unopposed motion to amend the settlement and extend the time for Alliance to file a section 4 rate case by 60 days from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020, as it appears to be fair, reasonable, and in the public interest. Our approval of this motion does not constitute acceptance of, or precedent regarding, any principle or issue in this proceeding.

The Commission orders:

Alliance's motion is granted, as discussed in the body of this order.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

⁵ 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2019).