

171 FERC ¶ 61,060
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

Pine Needle LNG Company, LLC

Docket No. RP17-204-001

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO AMEND SETTLEMENT

(Issued April 20, 2020)

1. On March 31, 2020, pursuant to Rule 212 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure,¹ Pine Needle LNG Company, LLC (Pine Needle) filed a motion to amend a settlement approved by the Commission on December 30, 2016 (2016 Settlement) in the above-captioned docket.² As discussed below, we grant Pine Needle's request.
2. Pine Needle states that Article II, Section E of the 2016 Settlement includes a requirement that it file a Natural Gas Act (NGA) section 4 general rate case by May 1, 2020.³ Pine Needle further states that it has been engaged in discussions with its customers, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc., Washington Gas Light Company, Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority and the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia, and representatives of the North Carolina Utilities Commission and has reached an agreement in principle to settle all aspects of Pine Needle's rate case filing obligation. On April 10, 2020, Pine Needle filed a petition for approval of a stipulation and agreement in Docket No. RP20-780-000 (2020 Settlement), which Pine Needle states settles all aspects of its rate case filing obligations.
3. In its motion to amend the 2016 Settlement, Pine Needle requests that the May 1, 2020 filing deadline established by Article II, Section E of the 2016 Settlement to file a general section 4 rate case be extended until 60 days after the issuance of a Commission

¹ 18 C.F.R. § 385.212 (2019).

² *Pine Needle LNG Co., LLC*, 157 FERC ¶ 61,253 (2016) (2016 Settlement).

³ *Id.*

order rejecting its 2020 Settlement, should the Commission decide to issue such an order in that proceeding.⁴ Pine Needle further requests a shortened comment period with comments due on April 6, 2020.

4. Notice of Pine Needle's motion was issued on April 2, 2020, with interventions and answers due on April 6, 2020. No party filed adverse comments.

5. We find that the requested amendment to Pine Needle's 2016 Settlement appears fair and reasonable and in the public interest, consistent with the Commission's policy favoring settlements. Therefore, we grant the unopposed motion to amend the 2016 Settlement. Article II, Section E of the 2016 Settlement is hereby amended to state that in the event the Commission rejects the 2020 Settlement, Pine Needle is obligated to file a general section 4 rate case within 60 days from the date of that rejection order.

The Commission orders:

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

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

⁴ We note that the Commission has not yet acted in that proceeding. Nonetheless, we find it appropriate to extend the filing deadline until 60 days after the issuance of a Commission order, if such order rejects the 2020 Settlement.