

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

STAFF NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

(July 16, 2015)

Take notice¹ that in a non-public, preliminary investigation pursuant to 18 CFR Part 1b, the staff of the Office of Enforcement of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has preliminarily determined that Columbia Gas Transmission LLC (Columbia Gas) violated Part 4 of the General Term and Conditions of its FERC Gas Tariff by failing to post the notices of the auctions of its available firm capacity on the public side of its Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB), Navigates, between January 1, 2010 and May 1, 2013. This preliminary investigation was opened in response to a referral from the Division of Audits and Accounting requesting, in relevant part, that the Division of Investigations inquire further into the transparency of Columbia Gas' capacity auctions.

Columbia Gas is an interstate natural gas pipeline, jurisdictional to FERC under the Natural Gas Act. Beginning in 1993, Columbia Gas offered available firm capacity through notices of auctions posted on the public side of its EBB, Navigator, as required by Section 4.2 of its tariff. In 2008, Columbia Gas replaced Navigator with a new software program, Navigates, which required a login ID to access its password-protected side. In 2009, the notices of the auctions were removed from the public side of Navigates and placed on its password-protected side. Columbia Gas restored the notices of the auctions to the public side of Navigates on May 1, 2013. Nonetheless, Columbia Gas' failure to post the notices of the auctions of its available firm capacity on its public website for a period of four years posed a serious threat to transparency in the market, and may have compromised the Commission's open-access transportation requirements.

This notice does not confer a right on third parties to intervene in the investigation or any other right with respect to the investigation.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

¹ *Enforcement of Statutes, Regulations, and Orders*, 129 FERC ¶ 61,247 (2009); *order on reh'g*, 134 FERC ¶ 61,054 (2011).

Document Content(s)

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