

TRANSCANADA - ALBERTA SYSTEM
Tolls, Tariff & Procedures Committee (TTP)

RESOLUTION
Alternate Access Pilot Extension

Resolution T2000-14(a)

The TTP agrees that TransCanada will continue the existing Alternate Access Pilot. The Alternate Access Pilot will be continued until a comprehensive industry review of the Alberta System services and rate design is completed. TransCanada has commitments, under Products and Pricing and the 2001-2002 Rate Settlement, to conduct such a review.

The pilot will continue to incorporate a billing adjustment ('pooled approach') for Firm Transportation (FT) applicable to export delivery point contract demand quantities only.

Background

The issue of secondary access on the TransCanada Alberta System was first raised during the 1995 GRA Phase 2 Hearing. In EUB Decision U96055 (Phase 2 Decision), the EUB stated that "the proposal for secondary access has considerable merit" and suggested that issues associated with the proposal be considered by TransCanada's collaborative process. An issue summary was prepared and sponsored before the TTP which read, in part:

"NGTL is seeking input from the TTP on plans to implement an enhancement to its current firm service offering which will allow customers to nominate the unutilized portion of their Firm Service contracts at other locations on the system without incurring any additional charges".

Alternate Access was adopted as Issue T96-09 at the September 11, 1996 meeting of the TTP. The Alternate Access Task Force was formed and held a number of meetings between November 1996 and March 1997. For further background on the issue, please refer to Resolution T96-09.

The task force developed a consensus on an Alternate Access Pilot and forwarded that consensus to the TTP through Resolution T96-09. Resolution T96-09 was voted unopposed at the April 8, 1997 meeting of the TTP. The pilot had a duration of one year, expiring in June 1998. The resolution committed the TTP to review the pilot prior to its expiry. TransCanada reviewed the results of the pilot and concluded that FS holders will continue to see value in holding FS under the Alternate Access Program and the costs of administering the program continue to be minor. Therefore, TransCanada recommended to the TTP that the pilot as it currently exists, be extended for another year, pending changes necessitated by evolving pricing and services on TransCanada. This recommendation was presented to the TTP at its May 12, 1998 meeting.

The pilot was extended for an additional one-year term at the June 9, 1998 TTP meeting in Resolution T98-03. The resolution required that the Alternate Access Pilot be reviewed prior to June 1999. The review did not occur, however, the pilot was extended in February 2000 via Resolution T98-03(a). Resolution T98-03(a) required that the Alternate Access Pilot be reviewed prior to December 31, 2000.

In late 2000 and early 2001, the TTP conducted a review of the Alternate Access Pilot and discussed several options for the future of Alternate Access. Other issues that could potentially effect Alternate Access, such as the Cost of Service and the review of services and rate design were also discussed. Given some uncertainty of services and rate design into the future, the taskforce decided to leave the Alternate Access Pilot in its current form. It is expected that Alternate Access will be addressed as part of the upcoming reviews of the Alberta System services.