

the date of exhaustion of the Company's available gas supply will be a date not earlier than February 1, 1982 or will be a specified date earlier than February 1, 1982. Any such certificate which states that the date of exhaustion of available gas supply will be a specified date earlier than February 1, 1982 is herein referred to as a "short term certificate."

Each such annual certificate of available gas supply shall be an engineer's certificate except that each certificate filed for December 1 in the years 1962, 1965, 1967, 1970, 1973 and 1976 shall be an independent engineer's certificate and any other certificate of available gas supply may be an independent engineer's certificate if the Company so determines. Each certificate of available gas supply shall include supplementary tabulations and other information in support of the conclusions stated therein.

The term "available gas supply" shall mean the minimum volume of natural gas which, by reason of the existence of proven natural gas reserves (including gas in solution or in a common reservoir with oil or distillate and to be produced with such oil or distillate in the form of casinghead gas) and the location of such reserves in relation to the Company's pipe lines, and after giving due consideration to the dedication of any portion of such reserves to others than the Company and to the effect of any applicable proration laws, regulations or orders, to all withdrawals (for the Company and others) from such reserves which may reasonably be expected and to all other pertinent factors relative to such reserves, the Company can, in the opinion of the signer or signers of such certificates, reasonably expect to produce, or to purchase at economically practical prices (whether or not the Company then has a contract right to purchase such gas), to meet requirements in the future for the purpose of transportation to the Company's markets and sale to its customers.

The term "date of exhaustion of available gas supply" as used herein, shall mean the date on which, in the opinion of the signer or signers of a certificate of available gas supply, the Company's avail-

able gas supply, determined as at a date fixed as hereinafter provided, would be exhausted on the assumption that the volume of gas in such gas supply were withdrawn after the date of determination thereof as specified in such certificate at a rate per twelve-month period equal to the volume of the Company's sales and use of gas (including gas unaccounted for but excluding gas owned by, and transported for the account of, others) during the twelve-month period ended on the June 30 next preceding the December 1 for which such certificate is to be filed. The date at which the Company's available gas supply shall be determined for the purpose of any such certificate shall be a date not earlier than the July 1 next preceding the December 1 for which such certificate is to be filed. Each certificate of available gas supply shall state the volume of the Company's sales and use of gas (including gas unaccounted for) during the twelve-month period ended on the June 30 next preceding the December 1 for which such certificate is to be filed. Each short term certificate of available gas supply shall also state the total volume of such supply as of the date of determination thereof specified in such certificate.

The term "terminal date", when used herein with respect to any short term certificate filed with the Trustee at a time when any Bonds of the 1975 Series or of the 1976 Series shall be outstanding, shall mean the date which is one year prior to the date of exhaustion of available gas supply specified in such certificate, and, when used herein with respect to any short term certificate filed with the Trustee at a time when no Bond of either of said Series is outstanding, shall mean the date which is two years prior to the date of exhaustion of available gas supply specified in such certificate.

Any certificate of available gas supply signed by an independent engineer designated by the holders of Bonds of the 1975 Series or of the 1976 Series or agreed upon by the Company and such bondholders or selected by the Dean of the School of Engineering of Columbia University pursuant to Section 8, Article 2, of the Third Supplemental Indenture or of the Fourth Supplemental Indenture and filed by the