



SOUTHERN STAR CENTRAL GAS PIPELINE, INC.

**“Elk City Storage - Market-Based Expansion”
2026 BINDING OPEN SEASON**

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (Southern Star) is pleased to announce the commencement of a Binding Open Season to quantify interest in firm storage service and to identify the need to construct facilities. Southern Star is specifically evaluating interest in its Elk City Storage – Market-Based Expansion that would provide increased storage deliverability opportunities by installing additional compression and ancillary facility upgrades at the existing Elk City Compressor Station in Elk County, KS (“Project”). Accordingly, Southern Star is finalizing the design for this Project and is seeking reliable binding requests for this additional capacity to execute final agreements with committed shippers.

The Project will be developed by Southern Star using its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Gas Tariff. This ownership and regulatory structure will provide benefits to expansion shippers as well as existing Southern Star shippers. The Project is explained in more detail below.

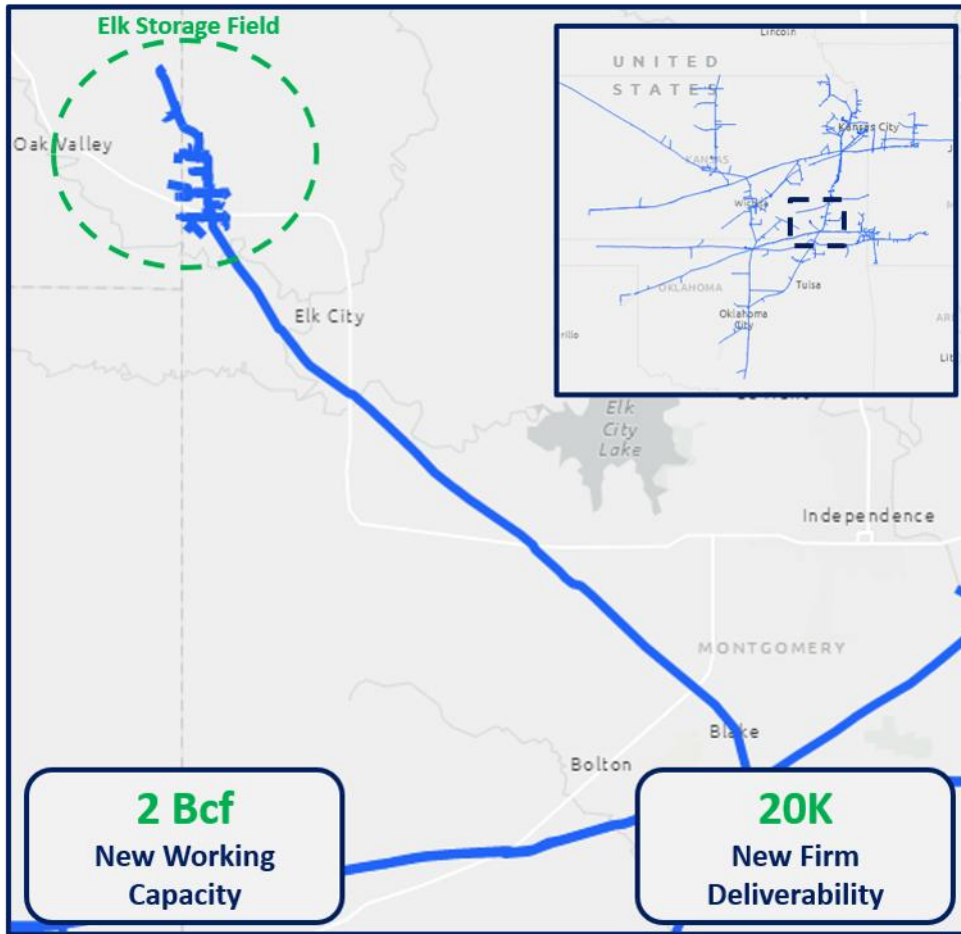
Length of Open Season

The Open Season commences at 10:00 AM, Central Clock Time (CCT), June 22, 2026, and concludes at 3:00 PM, CCT, July 17, 2026. Southern Star may in its sole discretion extend the length of the Open Season by posting notice of such extension on its Informational Postings website.

Elk City Storage – Market-Based Expansion Project

Southern Star is evaluating the potential addition of compression at its Elk City Compressor Station in Elk County, KS. This project will create incremental storage deliverability opportunities, by installing additional compression and ancillary facility upgrades.

There will be approximately 20,000 dth/day of available storage deliverability for bid by converting base gas to firm, working gas. The Project has an estimated in-service date of November 1st, 2028, contingent on the amount of compression added, the amount of market interest, and applicable regulatory requirements. The binding bid(s) received during this Open Season will assist Southern Star in determining whether to pursue the proposed expansion and in defining the final parameters of such expansion.



Submission of Binding Bids

To respond to this Open Season, interested shippers should submit a Binding Service Request Form by email to sscopenseasonbids@southernstar.com no later than 3:00 PM, CCT on July 17, 2026. The binding bid should contain the desired contract term, the maximum storage quantity (MSQ), the maximum daily withdrawal quantity (MDWQ), Rate Zone, and any conditions. See Attachment A for the Binding Service Request Form.

Southern Star intends to seek FERC approval for Market Based Rates for the storage expansion project per NGA Section 4(f) and the Commission’s regulations. A “Reserve Price” will be established and for the purpose of this Open Season it has been set at a Daily Reservation Rate of \$0.006986 (Annual Reservation Rate of \$2.55) per Dth of Maximum Storage Quantity (MSQ) based on an expansion of 2,000,000 Dth MSQ and a 20,000 Dth/d Maximum Daily Withdrawal Quantity (MDWQ). To support the investment required to construct the new storage capacity, Southern Star invites customers to provide a reservation rate bid for a term not less than 10 years.

In addition to the reservation charge, the new firm storage service will be subject to other rates currently applicable to Southern Star’s current firm storage service including injection and withdrawal rates, fuel, and any other FERC-approved charges.

The applicable billing rates for this new firm storage service will be market-based rates as agreed upon between the successful bidder(s) and Southern Star.

Pursuant to Section 13.3 and 13.4 of the General Terms and Conditions set forth in the Southern Star Volume No. 1 FERC Gas Tariff and as set out from time to time on Sheet No. 12 of that Tariff, storage fuel and loss is to be reimbursed in kind and will be based upon the net daily quantities received for injection.

Southern Star will deem all bids submitted for a term of ten (10) years or more, for a 100 day service (the ratio of MSQ to MDWQ as 100 to 1), and at either a Daily Reservation Rate equal to the Reserve Price or at a Daily Reservation Rate higher than the Reserve Price to be "conforming bids". Bids incorporating less than the Reserve Price Rate, and/or for other than a 100-day service, and/or terms less than 10 years will be deemed "non-conforming bids". Southern Star may conduct negotiations for binding commitments with bidders that have submitted non-conforming bids as if such bids were conforming, if the non-conforming bid is acceptable as a starting point for negotiations in Southern Star's sole discretion. This process will be conducted in a non-discriminatory manner.

Any shipper's winning bid is contingent upon executing a precedent agreement within fifteen (15) days of being notified of its successful bid, or at other such time as agreed upon by the parties.

Additionally, to the extent a party has not already established a sufficient level of credit with Southern Star for its binding bid, sufficient credit must be established as set forth in Section 8.5 of the General Terms and Conditions ("GT&C") of Southern Star's FERC Gas Tariff ("Tariff").

Injections, Withdrawals and Maximum Storage Quantity

Upon commencement of service, each Shipper shall submit injection and withdrawal nominations, pursuant to Section 9 of the General Terms and Conditions of the Tariff.

The Maximum Daily Injection Quantities for each Shipper are:

- I. 0.75% of MSQ when Shipper's inventory balance is less than or equal to 62.5%;
- II. 0.625% of MSQ when Shipper's inventory balance is greater than 62.5%, but less than or equal to 75%;
- III. 0.375% of MSQ when Shipper's inventory balance is greater than 75%, but less than or equal to 87.5%;
- IV. 0.25% of MSQ when Shipper's inventory balance is greater than 87.5%.

Injections could exceed the MDIQ at the reasonable discretion of Southern Star.

A Shipper only has a right to withdraw the storage gas which it owns and is available up to the MDWQ subject to the following withdrawal ratchet levels.

- I. 100% of the contract MDWQ when the Shipper's inventory balance is greater than or equal to 30% of the MSQ
- II. 90% of the contract MDWQ when the Shipper's inventory balance is greater than or equal to 20% and less than 30% of the MSQ
- III. 80% of the contract MDWQ when the Shipper's inventory balance is greater than or equal to 10% and less than 20% of the MSQ
- IV. The lesser of 70% of the contract MDWQ or the shipper's inventory balance when the Shipper's inventory balance is greater than 0% and less than 10% of the MSQ

Withdrawals could exceed the MDWQ at the reasonable discretion of Southern Star.

Withdrawals in excess of inventory level will be treated as imbalances under the associated transportation agreement.

Shipper's maximum inventory balance on April 1st of each year shall not exceed 25% of their MSQ. Inventory balances in excess of 25% will be retained by Southern Star and credited to the storage fuel and loss under Section 13 of the General Terms and Conditions of the Tariff. Southern Star may, under its sole discretion and judgment, allow shippers' April 1st inventory balance to exceed 25%. If Southern Star does allow inventory balances to exceed 25% on April 1st, Southern Star will post a waiver on its EBB by February 15th stating the maximum percent of MSQ it will allow for the applicable year.

Shippers electing not to renew their service for the Storage Contract Year will be required to withdraw 100% of Shipper's Maximum Storage Quantity such that its storage balance is zero by end of the contract term. Inventory volumes may be sold in place. In the event that Inventory Quantities remain in storage at the end of the contract term, these volumes will be retained by Southern Star and credited to the storage fuel and loss under Section 13 of the General Terms and Conditions of the Tariff.

Transportation Service Associated with firm storage service

Parties requesting firm storage service proposed in this Open Season will be required to have an effective transportation service agreement with a contract demand quantity equal to or greater than the maximum daily injection quantity and maximum daily withdrawal quantity associated with the new firm storage service. The transportation service will be subject to the existing Terms and Conditions of Southern Star's tariff. A customer using firm transportation service to transport the storage quantities will be required to have a storage point as a primary receipt point. To the extent that current Southern Star customers have availability on their existing firm FTS-P or FTS-M transportation contracts (excluding TSS-P, TSS-M, STS-P and STS-M contracts), Southern Star is willing to consider amendments to such contracts to provide this storage as a firm receipt point. Parties submitting bids for the storage service are asked to provide guidance in their bid to Southern Star regarding where withdrawal quantities will be ultimately delivered.

Bid Evaluation - Decision on Additional Storage Deliverability and Proposed Expansion

Southern Star reserves the right to decline to pursue any expansion Project regardless of the terms of the bids it receives. Southern Star will evaluate all bids received in response to this Open Season to determine whether demand economically justifies the proposed expansion. Southern Star will notify bidding shippers as soon as possible regarding any decision made with respect to the additional firm storage deliverability and proposed expansions.

Southern Star will evaluate bids based on net present value determined with reference to rate, volume, term, the date the service is to commence and the cost to Southern Star of any related facilities, if applicable, using a discount rate equal to the FERC interest rate applicable to pipeline refunds pursuant to 18 CFR Section 154.501. Southern Star encourages bidders to submit bids with a maximum "Reserve Price" and for the purpose of this Open Season it has been set at a minimum Daily Reservation Rate of \$0.006986 (Annual Reservation Rate of \$2.55) per Dth of Maximum Storage Quantity (MSQ) based on an expansion of 2,000,000 Dth MSQ and a 20,000 Dth/d Maximum Daily Withdrawal Quantity (MDWQ) and with a minimum term of ten years to secure a high priority in the bid evaluation process. If there is a tie among bids in the net present value determination, capacity will be pro-rated among the tying bids.

Comparable bids that cannot be awarded in full will be awarded on a pro rata basis. Shippers should indicate in their bids the minimum volume of capacity they are willing to take in the event Southern Star must prorate the bids. If a bidder is unwilling to accept a partial award, then it must so indicate as part of its binding bid.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Southern Star reserves the right to accept, reject, or aggregate any bid or combination of bids, in its sole discretion, that will generate the highest cumulative net present value to Southern Star in order to justify the economics and viability of the Project and/or maximize the use of capacity.

Southern Star reserves the right to reject bids that contain rates or terms that do not meet its financial objectives. Southern Star reserves the right to reject any non-conforming bids but may conduct negotiations for binding commitments with bidders that have submitted non-conforming bids or bids that do not meet its financial project objectives if the bid is acceptable as a starting point for negotiations at Southern Star's sole discretion. This process will be conducted in a non-discriminatory manner.

Pursuant to Section 7.2 of the General Terms and Conditions of Southern Star's Gas Tariff, Southern Star reserves the right to negotiate modified contractual extension rights and other benefits with the firm foundation shippers that successfully support the Project on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Existing Firm Capacity Holders – Reverse Open Season / Request for Offers to Permanently Release

Current Southern Star FS1 Shippers who have capacity with an expiration date beyond November 1, 2028 on Southern Star's pipeline system may notify Southern Star if they have an interest in permanently releasing capacity in a binding notification prior to the expiration of this Open Season. Those that wish to permanently release their capacity should follow the Capacity Release Portal within CSI at the following link, <https://csi.southernstar.com/CapacityRelease/Offers>. The binding notification should contain the FS1 storage agreement number, the volume, the Rate Zone and any other conditions that would be necessary to effectuate a permanent release of the capacity to allow Southern Star to determine the need for, and feasibility of, the proposed expansion. Southern Star is not obligated to accept any such binding offer to release capacity.

Any existing FS1 Shipper submitting a binding notification offering to permanently release its capacity is making a binding offer to release that will, if accepted by Southern Star either in whole or in part, obligate the FS1 Shipper to sign and submit a binding release agreement as provided. The effective date for the permanent release will be the actual date that storage service under this expansion begins. If accepted, the released term will be the balance of the term of the releasing shipper's existing agreement up to the term of the expansion shippers' agreements. Acceptable offers to release capacity shall be subject to an exit fee as follows. A shipper who releases capacity (i.e., a turnback shipper) shall remain responsible for the difference between the expansion shipper's rate and the reservation rate under the releasing shipper's service agreement with Southern Star for the remaining term of the releasing shipper's service agreement, but will not be responsible for any commodity charges, fuel, or any other authorized usage surcharges associated with the released capacity, nor shall the releasing shipper be entitled to any credits associated with such capacity. Should Southern Star determine to phase the project, Southern Star also reserves the right to receive the turnback capacity in stages as necessary to match the effective date(s) of the expansion capacity agreements executed as a result of the Open Season.

Contacts

Southern Star appreciates your interest in our Open Season. Please feel free to call any of the contacts provided below if you have any questions or would like to further discuss this Open Season.

Alex Ross (270) 313-5728

Kyle Geiger (270) 852-4637

Greg Blandford (270) 314-1485

Robin Joska (270) 302-5007

Scott Warren (270) 302-6433

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ATTACHMENT A: BINDING SERVICE REQUEST FORM – STORAGE

Date: _____, 2026

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.
4700 State Route 56
Owensboro, KY 42301

Re: **June 2026 Binding Open Season**
Elk City Storage – Market-Based Expansion

Attention:
sscopenseasonbids@southernstar.com

_____ (Shipper) hereby submits this binding request for firm storage service from Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. related to its proposed Elk City Storage – Market-Based Expansion and concurrently provides the following information in connection with this request:

A. Shipper Information

Complete legal name of Shipper: _____

Address of Shipper: _____

B. Rate Schedule: Firm Storage

Primary Term: _____

Service Area – Production/Market: _____

Contract Demand:

Maximum Storage Quantity (MSQ) _____ Dth

Maximum Daily Withdrawal Quantity (MDWQ) _____ Dth/d

Ratio between MSQ and MDWQ designed as 100 to 1. Bids with a ratio other than 100 to 1 will be considered non-conforming.

ATTACHMENT A: BINDING SERVICE REQUEST FORM – STORAGE (continued)

(It is anticipated that this service will have a maximum end of season inventory limit and injection and withdrawal ratchets to be defined in the approved Rate Schedule.)

C. Rate during Primary Term:

Daily Reservation Rate of \$ _____ per Dth of MSQ

Authorized Overrun Rate: The Authorized Capacity Overrun Rate will be the annual value of the total Reservation charge, stated on a daily basis, and will be applied to any quantity in excess of the MSQ, MDIQ, or MDWQ per day.

Injection/Withdrawal Rate: These will be the same as the injection and withdrawal rates as stated in the above section *“Injections, Withdrawals and Maximum Storage Quantity”*.

Customer will also be responsible for all applicable Fuel charges, and any other FERC-approved charges and surcharges.

D. Partial Award of Capacity:

Please indicate whether bidder is willing to accept a partial award of capacity in the event there is a tie and 100% of your bid cannot be awarded.

Yes ____ No ____

E. Transportation Service:

Preferred transportation service associated with this firm storage service:

_____ Firm Transportation

_____ Interruptible Transportation

If Firm Transportation is preferred, will an existing or new Firm Production/Market (FTS-P/FTS-M) transportation agreement be utilized?

_____ Existing FTS-P/FTS-M Agreement (Contract Number TA-_____) (This will require a change to the firm receipt point on the current FTS-P/FTS-M Agreement, moving it to a storage receipt point for the corresponding quantity of MDWQ.)

_____ New FTS-P/FTS-M Agreement

ATTACHMENT A: BINDING SERVICE REQUEST FORM – STORAGE (continued)

E. Transportation Service (Continued):

Desired Delivery Point(s) for New FTS-P/FTS-M Agreement:

Delivery Point(s)	Maximum Daily Quantity (MDQ)
A. _____	_____ Dth
B. _____	_____ Dth
C. _____	_____ Dth

Shipper, by its signature, represents to Southern Star that the information above is correct and accurate

Signature

Name

Title

Telephone No. _____

E-Mail Address _____

Date _____