

standards, the Commission cannot, and is not responsible for trying to, anticipate the changes Dominion or other parties may find of particular interest. As the Commission has stated, "the purpose of the Notice of Filing is to apprise the public of the fact that a filing has been made * * * after that, the burden is upon interested parties to inform themselves of the filing's precise contents."⁴⁴

Notice of Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards

38. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119 (§ 11) (February 10, 1998) provides that when a federal agency issues or revises a regulation containing a standard, the agency should publish a statement in the final rule stating whether the adopted

standard is a voluntary consensus standard or a government-unique standard. In this rulemaking, the Commission is incorporating by reference voluntary consensus standards developed by the WGQ.

Information Collection Statement

39. The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulations in 5 CFR 1320.11 require that it approve certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements (collections of information) imposed by an agency. Upon approval of a collection of information, OMB will assign an OMB control number and an expiration date. Respondents subject to the filing requirements of this rule will not be penalized for failing to respond to these collections of information unless the

collections of information display a valid OMB control number.

40. The final rule will affect the following existing data collection: FERC-549C "Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines" (OMB Control No. 1902-174). The following burden estimates are related only to this rule and include the costs of complying with Version 1.6 of the WGQ's consensus standards and the standards adopted by the WGQ for partial day recalls. The burden estimates for the FERC-549C data collection are related to implementing the latest version of the business practice standards and related data sets. The costs for this data collection are primarily related to start-up and will not be on-going costs.

Data collection	Number of respondents	Number of respondent per respondent	Hours per response	Total annual hours
FERC-549C	93	1	2,248	209,064

The total annual hours for collection is 209,064 hours.

	FERC-549C
Annualized Capital/Start-up Costs	\$11,763,971
Annualized Costs (Operations & Maintenance)	0
Total Annualized Costs	11,763,971

The cost per respondent is \$126,494 (rounded off).

41. The Commission sought comments to comply with these requirements. Comments were received from six entities. No comments addressed the reporting burden imposed by these requirements. The substantive issues raised by the commenters are addressed in this preamble.

42. The Commission's regulations adopted in this rule are necessary to further the process begun in Order No. 587 of creating a more efficient and integrated pipeline grid by standardizing the business practices and electronic communication of interstate pipelines. Adoption of these regulations will update the Commission's regulations relating to business practices and communication protocols to conform to the latest version, Version 1.6, of the WGQ's consensus standards

and to include the standards adopted by the WGQ for partial day recalls.

43. The Commission has assured itself, by means of its internal review, that there is specific, objective support for the burden estimates associated with the information requirements. The information required in this final rule will help the Commission carry out its responsibilities under the Natural Gas Act and conforms to the Commission's plan for efficient information collection, communication, and management within the natural gas industry.

44. Interested persons may obtain information on the reporting requirements by contacting the following: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 (Attention: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, (202) 502-8415, or michael.miller@ferc.gov) or the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. The Desk Officer can also be reached at (202) 395-7856, or fax: (202) 395-7285.

Environmental Analysis

45. The Commission is required to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for any action that may have a significant adverse effect on the human environment.⁴⁵ The Commission has categorically excluded certain actions from these requirements as not having a significant effect on the human environment.⁴⁶ The actions adopted here fall within categorical exclusions in the Commission's regulations for rules that are clarifying, corrective, or procedural, for information gathering, analysis, and dissemination, and for sales, exchange, and transportation of natural gas that requires no construction of facilities.⁴⁷ Therefore, an environmental assessment is unnecessary and has not been prepared.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

46. The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA)⁴⁸ generally requires a description and analysis of final rules that will have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The regulations adopted here impose requirements only on interstate pipelines, which are not small businesses, and, these requirements are, in fact, designed to benefit all customers, including small businesses.

⁴⁴ PJM Interconnection L.L.C., 101 FERC ¶ 61,135, P 17 (2002). See Filing and Reporting Requirements for Interstate Natural Gas Company Rate Schedules and Tariffs, FERC Stats. & Regs., Regulations Preambles (Jan. 1991-June 1996) ¶ 31,025, at 31,403 (The purpose of the notice is merely to get the

attention of interested parties who may then review the full filing.)

⁴⁵ Order No. 486, Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, 52 FR 47897 (Dec. 17, 1987), FERC Stats. & Regs. Preambles 1986-1990 ¶30.783 (1987).

⁴⁶ 18 CFR 380.4.

⁴⁷ See 18 CFR 380.4(a)(2)(ii), 380.4(a)(5), 380.4(a)(27).

⁴⁸ 5 U.S.C. 601-612.