

for information gathering, analysis, and dissemination.⁵³ The rule updates the Parts 35, 101, 154, 201, 346 and 352 of the Commission's regulations, and does not substantially change the effect of the underlying legislation or the regulations being revised or eliminated. In addition, the final rule involves information gathering, analysis and dissemination. Therefore, this final rule falls within categorical exemptions provided in the Commission's regulations. Consequently, neither an environmental impact statement nor an environmental assessment is required.

VII. Information Collection Statement

77. 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.

78. The final rule will affect the following current data collections: FERC Form(s) 1, 1-F, 2, 2-A and 6, FERC-516 and FERC-545. In accordance with Section 3507(d) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,⁵⁴ the data requirements in the subject rule have been submitted to OMB for review.

Public Reporting Burden: The Commission provided burden estimates

in order to implement the proposed requirements. Of the 16 commenters who responded to the NOPR, only one made specific comment concerning the Commission's burden estimates. This one commenter has misconstrued the intent of the rule to impose more time consuming requirements (*e.g.*, group depreciation method) than the final rule actually imposes. The Commission's responses to these comments are being addressed elsewhere in the final rule. The proposed requirements coincide with procedures already established by FAS 143 for companies to recognize a liability at fair value on their financial statements for a retirement obligation when it has occurred. The Commission is merely adjusting these industry standards to coordinate with its Uniform Systems of Accounts.

Data collection	No. of respondents	No. of responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total annual hours
Form 1	216	216	17	3,672
Form 1-F	27	27	8	216
Form 2	57	57	13	741
Form 2-A	53	53	8	424
Form 6	159	159	10	1,590
Totals	512	512	6,643

The total annual hours for these collections is 6,643 hours.

Information Collection Costs: The Commission is projecting only the costs associated with implementing the requirements of this rule.

Annualized Capital/Startup Costs: 6,643 hours ÷ 2,080 hours × \$117,041 = \$373,800.

Annualized Costs (Operations & Maintenance): It should be noted that the burden and corresponding costs of this final rule are to be implemented by jurisdictional entities to comply with the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts. These entities must already maintain much of this information in order to implement generally accepted accounting principles. The burden and corresponding costs are to account for only where there are differences between the generally accepted accounting principles and the Uniform System of Accounts.

79. FERC Information Collections FERC-516 and FERC-545 are also referenced because jurisdictional entities will be required to provide supporting documentation for the amounts to be collected in their rates when an asset retirement obligation has been recorded. This documentation is no different than jurisdictional entities

already prepare in their detailed studies as currently required by the Commission to support changes in annual depreciation rates. The Commission is not requiring additional information as jurisdictional entities already prepare this information when quantifying studies and analyses on the cost of removal of an asset retirement obligation. Therefore, the Commission does anticipate that additional burden will be imposed under these two information collections.

80. The Commission has assured itself, by means of internal review, that there is specific, objective support for the burden estimates associated with the information requirements.

Title: FERC Form 1 "Annual Report of Major Electric Utilities, Licensees and Others"; FERC Form 1-F "Annual Report of Nonmajor Public Utilities and Licensees"; FERC Form 2 "Annual Report of Major Natural Gas Companies"; FERC Form 2-A "Annual Report of Nonmajor Natural Gas Companies"; FERC Form 6 "Annual Report of Oil Pipeline Companies"; FERC-516 "Electric Rate Schedule Filings"; FERC-545 "Gas Pipeline Rates: Rate Change."

Action: Proposed data collections.

OMB Control Nos.: 1902-0021; 1902-0029; 1902-0028; 1902-0030; 1902-0022, 1902-0016 and 1902-0154.

Respondents: Public Utilities; Natural Gas Companies; oil pipeline companies (Business or other for profit, including small businesses).

Frequency of the information: Annually.

Necessity of the Information: The final rule amends the Commission's regulations to revise parts 35, 101, 154, 201, 346 and 352 of its regulations. The final rule amends the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts to revise or create definitions, instructions, balance sheet and income statement accounts. The addition of new accounts and changes to FERC Forms will add visibility, completeness and consistency of the accounting and reporting of liabilities for asset retirement obligations and the related asset retirement costs capitalized. The implementation of these requirements will enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under the FPA, NGA and ICA to ensure the protection of ratepayers. The Commission is of the view that such requirements are needed because the disclosures of these lack uniformity. For example, jurisdictional

⁵³ 18 CFR 380.4(a)(5).

⁵⁴ 44 U.S.C. 3507(d).