

e-mail further reducing the handling and response time of the operators.

Many U. S. government agencies have an interest in the definitions of proved oil and gas reserves and the quality, reliability and usefulness of estimates of reserves. Among these are the Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy; Minerals Management Service (MMS), Department of Interior; Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of the Treasury; and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Each of these organizations has specific purposes for collecting, using, or estimating proved reserves. The EIA has a congressional mandate to provide accurate annual estimates of U.S. proved crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids reserves and publishes an annual reserves report to meet this requirement. The MMS is second only to the IRS in generating Federal revenue. The MMS maintains estimates of proved reserves to carry out their responsibilities in leasing, collecting royalty payments and regulating the activities of oil and gas companies on Federal lands and water. For the IRS, proved reserves and occasionally probable reserves are an essential component of calculating taxes for companies owning or producing oil and gas. The SEC requires publicly traded petroleum companies to annually file a reserves statement as part of their 10-K filing. The basic purpose of the 10-K filing is to give the investing public a clear and reliable financial basis to assess the relative value, as a financial asset, of a company's reserves, especially in comparison to other similar oil and gas companies.

Respondents should use the same methods when estimating reserves for the EIA as they do for the SEC. If there is an apparent conflict in requirements and assumptions, give precedence to the methods used for the SEC. Operators should note in the footnotes whether end of year or annual average prices were used and whether probabilistic or deterministic methods were utilized at the field level.

### III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of comments. Please indicate to which form(s) your comments apply.

#### General Issues

A. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the

agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can be made to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

#### *As a Potential Respondent to the Request for Information*

A. What actions could be taken to help ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information to be collected?

B. Are the instructions and definitions clear and sufficient? If not, which instructions need clarification?

C. Can the information be submitted by the due date?

D. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 4 hours for small operators, 32 hours for intermediate operators, and 160 hours for large operators on Form EIA-23. For operators reporting on Form EIA-23P, reporting burden is estimated at 15 minutes. For natural gas plant operators reporting on Form EIA-64A, the reporting burden is estimated at 6 hours. The estimated burden includes the total time necessary to provide the requested information. In your opinion, how accurate is this estimate?

E. The agency estimates that the only cost to a respondent is for the time it will take to complete the collection. Will a respondent incur any start-up costs for reporting, or any recurring annual costs for operation, maintenance, and purchase of services associated with the information collection?

F. What additional actions could be taken to minimize the burden of this collection of information? Such actions may involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

G. Does any other Federal, State, or local agency collect similar information? If so, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

#### *As a Potential User of the Information To Be Collected*

A. What actions could be taken to help ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information disseminated?

B. Is the information useful at the levels of detail to be collected?

C. For what purpose(s) would the information be used? Be specific.

D. Are there alternate sources for the information and are they useful? If so, what are their weaknesses and/or strengths?

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM96-1-024]

#### Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines

May 6, 2003.

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company [Docket No. RP03-457-000]; Alliance Pipeline L.P. [Docket No. RP03-432-000]; ANR Storage Company [Docket No. RP03-415-000]; ANR Pipeline Company [Docket No. RP03-441-000]; Black Marlin Pipeline Company [Docket No. RP03-351-000]; Blue Lake Gas Storage Company [Docket No. RP03-406-000]; Canyon Creek Compression Company [Docket No. RP03-424-000]; Central New York Oil and Gas Company, LLC [Docket No. RP03-412-000]; CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company [Docket No. RP03-407-000]; CenterPoint Energy-Mississippi River Transmission Corporation [Docket No. RP03-466-000]; CMS Trunkline Gas Company, LLC [Docket No. RP03-450-000]; CMS Trunkline LNG Company, LLC [Docket No. RP03-448-000]; Colorado Interstate Gas Company [Docket No. RP03-410-000]; Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation [Docket No. RP03-455-000]; Columbia Gulf Transmission Company [Docket No. RP03-447-000]; Crossroads Pipeline Company [Docket No. RP03-456-000]; Dauphin Island Gathering Partners [Docket No. RP03-453-000]; Destin Pipeline Company, L.L.C. [Docket No. RP03-371-000]; Discovery Gas Transmission LLC [Docket No. RP03-348-000]; Dominion Cove Point LNG, LP [Docket No. RP03-379-000]; Dominion Transmission, Inc. [Docket No. RP03-377-000]; East Tennessee Natural Gas Company [Docket No. RP03-430-000]; Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company [Docket No. RP03-388-000]; Egan Hub Partners, L.P. [Docket No. RP03-454-000]; El Paso Natural Gas Company [Docket No. RP03-394-000]; Florida Gas Transmission Company [Docket No. RP03-361-000]; Garden Banks Gas