

16 U.S.C. 791, are to maintain just and reasonable rates for jurisdictional sales of natural gas and electricity and for natural gas transportation and power transmission, to protect consumers of natural gas and electricity from the exercise of monopoly power, and to establish a regulatory framework that improves the competitive structure of the natural gas and electric power industries. The current regulatory model is a hybrid that has evolved from total regulatory control of monopoly interstate natural gas pipelines and electric transmission facilities to a regulatory environment that fosters competition.

In this environment, the wholesale markets must be structured to promote competition. Robust price formation is a key element of such markets. Under market-based pricing, the Commission must ensure that wholesale prices for

natural gas and electricity are formed in a robust market with sufficient information available to all participants to permit them to judge the liquidity of markets and accuracy of the prices reported.

To enable the Commission to fulfill this duty, the NGA, the NGPA, and the FPA all authorize the Commission to conduct investigations and collect information. In this case, the information relates to whether market participants are helping in price formation. In other words, the survey asks market participants whether they are reporting their energy trades to a developer of commercially available price indices or trading or having trades confirmed on electronic exchanges that generate indices from such electronic trades or confirmations.

Information Collection Statement: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

44 U.S.C. 3507, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.10 require OMB to approve certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements (collections of information) imposed by a federal agency. Upon approval of a collection of information, OMB will assign an OMB control number and an expiration date.

The proposed information collection request will be done in a two-stage survey (OMB Control No. to be assigned). The respondents will include producers, generators, marketers, industrial users, and commercial customers. Responses to the information collection request will be voluntary.

Burden Statement: The maximum public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Information item	Initial response	Supplemental response
Number of respondents	300	300
Number of hours per respondent	5	2
Total hours	1,500	600
Grand total hours		2,100

Cost to respondents:

Total hours burden all respondents	Person hours per year ¹	Estimated salary per year ²	Total cost
2,100	1,040	\$117,041	\$236,332.79

¹ Because this information collection has been submitted for approval under OMB's emergency processing procedures, the Commission will only collect data for a six month period. As a result, for computation of the work hours per year factor, the hours have been cut in half.

² Because of the variation of salaries for professional and clerical staff among the respondents and in order to use an average, the Commission is assuming that the "salary" per employee within the energy industry is comparable to that of the Commission staff. This average takes into account the salaries and benefits of professional, clerical, and technical staff.

The average cost per respondent is \$787.77.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology e.g. permitting electronic submission of

responses. Interested persons may send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect on the proposed information collection, including suggestions for reductions of burden, to the FERC Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202 NEOB, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, phone (202) 395-7318 or by fax at (202) 395-7285. A copy of any comments filed with OMB should also be filed with the Commission. Comments may be filed electronically via the eFiling link on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Commenters unable to file comments electronically must send an original and 14 copies of their comments to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary,

888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Document Availability: In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission also provides interested persons an opportunity to inspect or copy contents of this document during normal business hours in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426. Additionally, comments may be viewed and printed remotely via the Internet through FERC's home page, <http://www.ferc.gov>, and in FERC's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First