

abandoning any jurisdictional facility or service. Under the NGPA interstate and intrastate pipelines must also obtain authorization for certain transportation arrangements.

The information collected is necessary to certificate interstate pipelines engaged in the transportation and sale of natural gas, and the construction, acquisition, and operation of facilities to be used in those activities, to authorize the abandonment of facilities and services and to authorize certain NGPA transactions. If a certificate is granted, the natural gas company can construct, acquire, or operate facilities plus engage in interstate transportation or sale of natural gas. Conversely, approval of an abandonment application permits the

pipeline to cease service and/or discontinue the operation of such facilities. Authorization under NGPA section 311(a) allows the interstate or intrastate pipeline applicants to render certain transportation services.

The data required to be submitted consists of identification of the company and responsible officials, factors considered in the location of the facilities and the impact on the area for environmental considerations. Also to be submitted are flow diagrams showing design capacity of engineering design verification and safety determination, and gas reserves data for appraisal of the feasibility of the project. Market data presenting the economic basis for the proposed action are included when appropriate as cost of the proposed

facilities, plans for refinancing, and estimated revenues and expenses related to the proposed facility for financial and accounting evaluation. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR parts 157.5-.11; 157.13-.20; 157.22; 157.53; 157.201-.209; 157.211; 157.214-.218; 284.8; 284.11; 284.126; 284.221; 284.223-.224; 284.227.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection of data.

Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

| Number of respondents annually | Number of responses per respondent | Average burden hours per response | Total annual burden hours |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (1)×(2)×(3) |
| 76 | 10.2 | 271.2 | * 210,234 |

* Rounded off.

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 210,234 hours/2,080 hours per year × \$117,041 per year = \$11,829,807. The cost per respondent is equal to \$155,655.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

The estimate of cost for respondents is based upon salaries for professional and clerical support, as well as direct and indirect overhead costs. Direct costs include all costs directly attributable to providing this information, such as administrative costs and the cost for information technology. Indirect or overhead costs are costs incurred by an organization in support of its mission. These costs apply to activities which benefit the whole organization rather than any one particular function or activity.

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.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC03-568-000, FERC-568]

Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

September 29, 2003.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c) (2) (a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c) (2) (A), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specifics of the information collection described below.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by December 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from Michael Miller, Office of the Executive Director, ED-30, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those parties filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing.

For paper filings, the original and 14 copies of such comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary,