

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. IC99-423-001, FERC Form No. 423]

Information Collection Submitted for Review and Request for Comments

August 29, 2000.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.**ACTION:** Notice of submission for review of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has submitted the energy information collection listed in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under provisions of section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13). Any interested person may file comments on the collection of information directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission, as explained below. The Commission received comments from eighteen entities in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of August 20, 1999 (64 FR 45519-20) and has responded to those comments in this submission.

DATES: Comments regarding this collection are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before October 5, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Address comments of Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Commission Desk Officer, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. A copy of the comments should also be sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Attention: Mr. Michael Miller, 888 First Street, NE., Washington DC 20426. Mr. Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415 and by e-mail at mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Description**

The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review contains:

1. *Collection of Information:* FERC Form 423, "Monthly Report of Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Plants".
2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
3. *Control No.:* 1902-0024. The Commission is requesting reinstatement, without change, of the previously approved data collection for which

approval expired July 31, 2000, and a three-year approval of the collection of data. This is a mandatory information collection requirement.

4. *Necessity of Collection of Information:* Submission of the information is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing provisions of sections 205-206 of the Federal Power Act as amended by section 208 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA).

The Commission uses the information to collect basic cost and quality of fuels data at electric generating plants on the FERC Form 423, and has used such data to conduct fuel reviews, rate investigations and to track market changes and trends in the electric wholesale market. The data is also used by other government agencies to track the supply, disposition and prices of fuel, to conduct environmental assessments, and by electric market participants and the public to assess the competitive market place.

5. *Respondent Description:* The respondent universe currently comprises approximately 209 public utilities. FERC Form 423 collects from every electric power producer having electric generating plants with a rated capacity of 50 megawatts or greater, monthly data on the cost and quality of fuel delivered to each generating plant. There are approximately 636 generating plants.

6. *Estimated Burden:* 11,448 total burden hours, 636 respondents, 12 responses annually, 1.5 hours per response.

Authority: Sections 205-206 of the FPA (16 U.S.C. 824d and e) and section 208, of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA). (16 U.S.C. 2601 *et. al.*).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-22585 Filed 9-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. IC00-547-000, FERC-547]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

August 29, 2000.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.**ACTION:** Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before November 6, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 208-1415, and by e-mail at mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under FERC-547 "Gas Pipeline Rates: Refund Report Requirements" (OMB No. 1902-0084) is used by the Commission to implement statutory refund provisions governed by sections 4, 5, and 16 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w). Sections 4 and 5 authorize the Commission to order a refund, with interest, on any portion of a natural gas company's increased rate or charge found to be not just or reasonable. Refunds may also be instituted by a natural gas company as a stipulation to a Commission-approved settlement agreement or a provision under the company's tariff. Section 16 authorizes the Commission to prescribe the rules and regulations necessary to administer its refund mandates. The Commission's refund and reporting requirements are set forth at sections 154.501 and 154.502 of the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 154.501 and 154.502). The data collected thereunder allows the Commission to monitor the refunds owned by the natural gas companies and to ensure the flow through of the refunds, with applicable interest, to the appropriate customers and ultimately to the residential customers and end users.

Action: The Commission is requesting reinstatement, without change, of the previously approved data collection for which approval expired July 31, 2000, and a three-year approval of the data. This is a mandatory information collection requirement.

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

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per re- spondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)x(2)x(3)
75	1	75	5,625 hours.

The estimated total cost to respondents is \$311,963, (5,625 hours divided by 2,080 hours per year per employee times \$115,357¹ per year per average employee=\$311,963). The cost per respondent is \$3,900.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by the respondent to assemble and disseminate the information including: (1) Reviewing the instructions; (2) developing or acquiring appropriate technological support systems needed for purposes of collecting, validating, processing, and disseminating the information; (3) administration; and (4) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

The cost estimate 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-22586 Filed 9-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC00-588-000; FERC-588]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

August 29, 2000.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before November 6, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 208-2425, and by e-mail at mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form No. 588 "Emergency Natural Gas Transportation, Sale and Exchange Transactions" (OMB

No. 1902-0144) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of sections 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (P.L. 75-688) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w) and provisions of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA), 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432. Under the NGA, a natural gas company must obtain Commission approval to engage in the transportation, sale or exchange of natural gas in interstate commerce. However, section 7(c) exempts from certificate requirements "temporary acts or operations for which the issuance of a certificate will not be required in the public interest." The NGPA also provides for non-certificated interstate transactions involving intrastate pipelines and local distribution companies.

A temporary operation, or emergency, is defined as any situation in which an actual or expected shortage of gas supply would require an interstate pipeline company, intrastate pipeline, or local distribution company, or Hinshaw pipeline to curtail deliveries of gas or provide less than the projected level of service to the customer. The natural gas companies file the necessary information with the Commission so that it may determine if the transaction/operation qualifies for exemption. A report within forty-eight hours of the commencement of the transportation, sale or exchange, a request to extend the sixty-day term of the emergency transportation, if needed, and a termination report are required. The data required to be filed for the forty-eight hour report is specified by 18 CFR 284.270.

Action: The Commission is requesting reinstatement, without change, of the previously approved data collection for which approval expired July 31, 2000, and a three-year approval of the collection of data. This is a mandatory information collection requirement.

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

¹ The cost per year per average employee estimate is based on the annual allocated cost per

Commission employee for fiscal year 2001. The estimated \$115,357 cost consists of approximately

\$92,286 in salary and \$23,071 in benefits and overhead.