

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs; Federal Government.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

*Responses:* 988.

*Burden Hours:* 416.

*Abstract:* Based on evaluation questions in the authorizing legislation, this evaluation will document implementation of the Voluntary Public Choice Program and establish baseline data on student achievement. The purposes are to provide information that helps determine whether to modify or extend the VPSC concepts; identifies promising practices and lessons learned; and provides insights about public school choice.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2263. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address [vivian\\_reese@ed.gov](mailto:vivian_reese@ed.gov). Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address [OCIO\\_RIMG@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Sheila Carey at (202) 708-6287 or via her e-mail address [Sheila.Carey@ed.gov](mailto:Sheila.Carey@ed.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC03-539-001, FERC-539]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Submitted for OMB Review

April 10, 2003.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and extension of the current expiration date. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission received no comments in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of January 28, 2003 (68 FR 4183-84) and has made this notation in its submission to OMB.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by May 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Address comments on the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. The Desk Officer may be reached by telephone at 202-395-7856. A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Executive Director, ED-30, Attention: Michael Miller, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those persons filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. For paper filings, such comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and should refer to Docket No. IC03-539-001.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in WordPerfect, MS Word, Portable Document Format, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and click on "Make an E-filing," and then follow the instructions for each screen. First time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgment to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of comments. User assistance for electronic filings is available at 202-502-8258 or by e-mail to [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov). Comments should not be submitted to the e-mail address.

All comments may be viewed, printed or downloaded remotely via the Internet through FERC's homepage using the FERRIS link. User assistance for FERRIS is available at 202-502-8222, or by e-

mail to [Webmaster@ferc.gov](mailto:Webmaster@ferc.gov) or the Public Reference at (202)-8371 Press 0, TTY (202) 502-8659 or by e-mail to [public.reference.room@ferc.gov](mailto:public.reference.room@ferc.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202)502-8415, by fax at (202)273-0873, and by e-mail at [michael.miller@ferc.gov](mailto:michael.miller@ferc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Description

The information collection submitted for OMB review contains the following:

1. Collection of Information: FERC-539 "Gas Pipeline Certificates: Import/Export"
2. Sponsor: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
3. Control No. 1902-0062.

The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three-year extension of the expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection. The information filed with the Commission is mandatory. Requests for confidential treatment of the information are provided for under Section 388.112 of the Commission's regulations.

4. Necessity of the Collection of Information: Submission of the information is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing the statutory provisions of Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), 15 U.S.C. 717-717w. Section 3 requires prior authorization before exporting or importing natural gas from or to the United States. Section 3 authorizes the Commission to grant an application, in whole or in part, with modifications and upon terms and conditions as the Commission may find necessary or appropriate. The 1992 amendments to Section 3 of the NGA concern the importation or exportation from/to a nation which has a free trade agreement with the United States. With the passage of both the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, the construction, operation and sitting of import or export facilities are also the subject of the Commission's regulatory focus.

In Order No. 608, 64 FR 51209-51222 (September 22, 1999), the Commission created voluntary procedures whereby prospective applicants could use a collaborative process to resolve significant issues prior to filing an application. This collaborative process allows applicants and interested parties to come together and come to mutual agreements that may help to defuse some of the controversial issues which may otherwise arise once an application has been filed with the Commission.

The pre-filing consultation process combines efforts to address NGA issues with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process into a single pre-filing collaborative process that also includes the administrative processes associated with the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act and other relevant statutes. Combining the pre-filing consultation and environmental review into a single pre-filing process simplifies and expedites the authorization of gas facilities and services.

The Commission uses the information to determine the appropriateness of the proposed facilities and their proposed location. The determination involves among other things, an examination of adequacy of design, cost, reliability, redundancy and environmental acceptability. The information is necessary for the Commission to make a determination that the facilities and location are consistent with the public interest. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 153.

5. Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises 12 companies (on average) subject to the Commission's jurisdiction

6. Estimated Burden: 2,886 total hours, 12 respondents(average), 1 response per respondent, 241 hours per response (average).

7. Estimated Cost Burden to respondents: 2,886 hours / 2080 hours per years  $\times$  \$117,041 per year = \$162,394. The cost per respondent is equal to \$13,533.00.

**Statutory Authority:** Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, 15 U.S.C. 717-717w.

**Magalie R. Salas,**  
*Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP03-84-000]

#### Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Application

April 11, 2003.

Take notice that on April 2, 2003, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco), filed pursuant to section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), an application, in abbreviated form, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing

Transco's replacement of certain pipeline facilities in Mobile County, Alabama, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

Transco states that due to recent increases in the population density along its Mobile Bay Lateral, it must upgrade approximately 1.45 miles of pipeline in Mobile County, Alabama, in order to ensure compliance with USDOT regulations at 49 CFR 192.611 and maintain certificated service and the safety and reliability of the Mobile Bay Lateral. The replacement will take place in an area recently classified as meeting the DOT Class 3 Regulations, as defined at 49 CFR 192.5(b)(3)(i).

Transco requests an order granting the authorization requested by July 10, 2003. Transco states that this date is requested to enable commencement of the replacement activities on or about August 4, 2003, in order to restore service by September 15, 2003. Transco estimates the replacement costs to be \$4.0 million.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party to the proceedings for this project should, on or before the comment date stated below, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties. A party must submit 14 copies of filings made in the proceeding, with the Commission and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments

considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest.

Persons who wish to comment only on the environmental review of this project should submit an original and two copies of their comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Environmental commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of the environmental documents, and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Environmental commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, the non-party commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission's final order.

The Commission may issue a preliminary determination on non-environmental issues prior to the completion of its review of the environmental aspects of the project. This preliminary determination typically considers such issues as the need for the project and its economic effect on existing customers of the applicant, on other pipelines in the area, and on landowners and communities. For example, the Commission considers the extent to which the applicant may need to exercise eminent domain to obtain rights-of-way for the proposed project and balances that against the non-environmental benefits to be provided by the project. Therefore, if a person has comments on community and landowner impacts from this proposal, it is important either to file comments or to intervene as early in the process as possible.

Protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper; see 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.