

obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: 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, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and refer to Docket No. IC04-542-000.

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 acknowledgement to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of comments.

All comments may be viewed, printed or downloaded remotely via the Internet

through FERC's homepage using the *eLibrary* link. For user assistance, contact [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866)208-3676 or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

**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:** The information collected under the requirements of FERC-542 "Gas Pipeline Rates: Rate Tracking (OMB No. 1902-0042) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Title IV of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA), 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432, and Sections 4, 5 and 16 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (P.L. 75-688)(15 U.S.C. 717-717w). These statutes empower the Commission to collect natural gas transmission cost information from interstate natural gas transporters for the purpose of verifying that these costs which are passed on to pipeline customers, are just and reasonable. Interstate natural gas pipelines are required by the Commission to track their transportation associated costs to allow for the Commission's review and

where appropriate, approval of the pass through of these cost to pipeline customers. Most of these FERC-542 tracking filings are monthly accountings of the cost of fuel or electric power necessary to operate compressor stations. Others track the costs of (1) Gas Research Institute fees; (2) annual charges of various types, and (3) other types of rate adjustments.

Tracking filings may be submitted at any time or on a regularly scheduled basis in accordance with the pipeline company's tariff. Filings may be either: (1) Accepted; (2) suspended and set for hearing; (3) suspended, but not set for hearing; or (4) suspended for further review, such as technical conference or some other type of Commission action. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR Part 154, §§ 154.4, 154.7, 154.101, 154.107, 154.201, 154.207-154.209 and 154.401-154.403.

**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 (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
57	3	140	23,940

The estimated total cost to respondents is \$1,233,658 (23,940 hours divided by 2,080 hours per employee per year times \$107,185 per year average salary (including overhead) per employee (rounded off)).

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.

**Linda Mitry,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E4-1935 Filed 8-25-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC04-546-000; FERC-546]

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

August 20, 2004.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is

soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by October 18, 2004.

**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 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, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and refer to Docket No. IC04-546-000.

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have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgement to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of comments.

All comments may be viewed, printed or downloaded remotely via the Internet through FERC's homepage using the *eLibrary* link. For user assistance, contact [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866) 208-3676 or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

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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:** The information collected under the requirements of FERC-546 "Certificated Rate Filings: Gas Pipeline Rates" (OMB No. 1902-0155) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Title IV of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) (15 U.S.C. 3301-3432) and Sections 4, 5, and 16 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w). The Commission has the regulatory responsibility under these Acts to ensure that pipeline rates and services are just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory. Accordingly, jurisdictional natural gas pipeline

companies are required to obtain Commission approval for all rates and charges made, or demanded, in connection with the transportation or sale of natural gas in interstate commerce.

Service and tariff revision information necessary for Commission examination and subsequent approval of any certificated pipeline *change in service* is collected under FERC-546. (Information necessary to examine and approve any *change in rates* is collected separately under FERC-542 for tracking filings (non-formal), and FERC-544 and FERC-545 for general rate change filings, including NGA Section 4 major rate filings (formal and non-formal respectively)). The required FERC-546 information is set forth in each pipeline's tariff, and must be filed in compliance with Commission regulations found in 18 CFR Part 154.4; 154.7; 154.202; and 154.204-.209; and 154.602-.603.

**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 (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
77	4	40	12,320

The estimated total cost to respondents is \$634,865 (12,320 hours divided by 2,080 hours per employee per year times \$107,185 per year average salary (including overhead) per employee (rounded off)).

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.

**Linda Mitry,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**[Docket No. IC04-556-000; FERC Form 556]**

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

August 20, 2004.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice.