

5. Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises approximately 60 interstate natural gas pipelines.

6. Estimated Burden: 3,500 total burden hours, 60 respondents, 60 responses annually, 58.3 hours per response (average).

Statutory Authority: Sections 311, 501 and 504 of the Natural Gas Policy Act (15 U.S.C. 3301-3432) (P.L. 95-621) and Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16 and 20 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA). (15 U.S.C. 717-717w).

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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[FERC-585]

Agency Information Collection Under Review by the Office of Management and Budget

December 24, 1996.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of request submitted for review to the Office of Management and Budget.

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 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 did not receive any public comments in response to an earlier Federal Register notice of August 12, 1996 (61 FR 41779-41780).

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before January 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Commission Desk Officer, 726 Jackson Place NW., Washington, DC 20503. A copy of the comments should also be sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Division of Information Services, Attention: Mr. Michael Miller, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description: The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review contains:

1. Collection of Information: FERC-585, "Reporting of Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans under PURPA 206."

2. Sponsor: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3. Control No.: 1902-0138. The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three year extension of these mandatory collection requirements.

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 Section 206 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1979 (PURPA). Section 206, Continuance of Service, of PURPA, Pub.L. 95-617, 92 Stat. 3117 added to the Federal Power Act (FPA) Section 202, subsection (g) requiring the Commission to establish rules to require each public utility to report to the Commission and appropriate State regulatory authorities: (1) any anticipated shortage of electric energy or capacity which would affect the utility's ability to serve its customers; and (2) submit and periodically revise, contingency plans respecting shortages of electric energy or capacity which would equitably accommodate service to both direct retail customers and those served by utilities supplied at wholesale by the public utility.

The Commission uses the contingency plan information to evaluate and formulate appropriate options for action in the event of an anticipated shortage is reported or materializes. If the contingency plan data is not provided, the statutory provisions of the FPA and PURPA will not have been complied with, and information will not be available to assess whether utilities have planned for shortage conditions and/or developed plans with due consideration for equitable customer treatment, as required by the established statute.

The Commission also uses this information to ensure itself and firm power wholesale customers that both are kept informed about utility contingency plans and anticipated shortages of energy and capacity and to ensure that direct and indirect customers would be treated without undue prejudice or disadvantage during actual shortages.

5. Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises approximately 110 public utilities. In the normal course of a public utility's operations, contingency plans are prepared and usually

reviewed and updated periodically. However, the burden on each utility will vary primarily with respect to the number and size of wholesale customers and utility system customers supplied by the reporting utility. The number of respondents is based on the actual number of responses that were received by the Commission over the last three years.

6. Estimated Burden: 511 total burden hours, 7 respondents, 7 responses annually, 73 hours per response. The average annual burden hours is the weighted average of burden hours required for updating contingency plans (50 hours) per response ¹) and for reporting of anticipated shortages (100 hours per response ¹).

Statutory Authority: Sections 206 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601) (P.L. 95-617) and Section 202, of the Federal Power Act (FPA). (16 U.S.C. 824a(g)).

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-33112 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. ER97-360-000]

American Energy Solutions, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order

December 24, 1996.

American Energy Solutions, Inc. (AESI) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which AESI will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions as a marketer. AESI also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, AESI requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by AESI.

On December 5, 1996, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Applications, Office of Electric Power Regulation, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by AESI should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214).

Absent a request for hearing within this period, AESI is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or

¹ Rounded off.