

(202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at mmiller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC-547 "Gas Pipeline Rates: Refund Report Requirements" (OMB No. 1902-0084) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of the Sections 4, 5, and 16 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w). Refund Reports are required to carry out the refund obligation policy in Section 4(e) of the NGA. Refunds are created due to the difference between pipeline rates collected subject to refund and firm rates set by the Commission. The refunds are flowed through by the following means: (a) pursuant to settlement agreements, and (b) legal

requirement. The Commission uses the data to insure the pass-through to gas consumers of refunds required to correct rates charged by pipelines. The data provided by the respondents are used to monitor the progress being made in making those refunds and to assure that refunds are being made in compliance with the Commission's regulatory functions. The Commission is committed to insuring that refunds owed by pipelines to their customers are made as expeditiously as possible, in order to hasten their ultimate pass-through to residential customers and other end-users. The data required to be filed for the refund report is specified by 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 154.501.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with only minor changes to the existing collection of data. In response to an industry-wide settlement that changes the collection of amounts for the Gas Research Institute (GRI), pipeline companies are making more frequent refund reports. However, due to the less complex nature of these reports, the time required to prepare these refund reports is less than that needed for most other refund reports. Therefore, while the number of projected refund reports has increased slightly, the total annual burden has not changed.

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)
80	1.25	56.25	5,625

The estimated total cost to respondents is \$281,250, (5,625 hours divided by 2,087 hours per year per employee times \$104,350 per year per average employee = \$281,250). The cost per respondent is \$3,516.

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.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 97-3761 Filed 2-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

Information Collection Submitted for Review and Request for Comments (FERC-538)

February 11, 1997.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of submission for review by 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 of 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 no comments in response to an earlier Federal Register notice of October 24, 1996 (61 FR 55137-38) and has made this notation in its submission to OMB.

DATES: Comments regarding this collection of information are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Desk Officer, 726 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D.C. 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 N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael P. Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at

(202) 273-0873, 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-538 "Gas Pipeline Certificates: Initial Service".

2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3. *Control No.:* OMB No. 1902-0061. The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection. These are 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 the provisions of the Natural Gas Act (NGA). The information reported under Commission identifier FERC-538 is filed in accordance with Section 7(a) (NGA). It is necessary to advise the Commission concerning the service which an applicant (local distribution company or municipality) requests the Commission to direct a natural gas pipeline company to extend or improve transportation facilities, establish physical connections to serve, and sell natural gas to the applicant. It must be determined whether the distributor applicant can economically construct and manage its facilities. In addition, the supply data are used to determine if the pipeline company can provide the service without curtailing certain of its existing customers. The flow data and market data are also used to evaluate existing and future customer requirements on the system to find sufficient capacity will be available. Likewise, the cost of facilities and the rate data are used to evaluate the financial impact of the cost of service of the project to both the pipeline company and its customers.

5. *Respondent Description:* The respondent universe currently comprises on average, 1 natural gas pipeline company.

6. *Estimated Burden:* 240 total burden hours, 1 respondent, 1 response annually, 240 hours per response (average).

7. *Estimated Cost Burden to Respondents:* 240 hours ÷ 2,087 hours per year × \$104,350 per year = \$12,000.

Statutory Authority: Sections 7, 10(a) and 16 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), 15 U.S.C. Section 717-717w.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-3745 Filed 2-13-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. ER96-2703-000]

Citizens Utilities Company; Notice of Filing

February 10, 1997.

Take notice that on January 13, 1997, Citizens Utilities Company tendered for filing an amendment in the above-referenced docket.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing 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 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before February 21, 1997. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-3704 Filed 2-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER97-30-000]

Kincaid Generation L.L.C.; Notice of Issuance of Order

February 11, 1997.

Kincaid Generation L.L.C. (Kincaid) filed an application for authorization to sell power at market-based rates, and for certain waivers and authorizations. In particular, Kincaid requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liabilities by Kincaid. On January 30, 1997, the Commission issued an Order Conditionally Accepting For Filing Proposed Market-Based Rates (Order), in the above-docketed proceeding.

The Commission's January 30, 1997 Order granted the request for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the conditions found in Ordering Paragraphs (E), (F), and (H):

(E) Within 30 days of the date of this order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the Commission's blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liabilities by Kincaid 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.

(F) Absent a request to be heard within the period set forth in Ordering Paragraph (E) above, Kincaid is hereby authorized, pursuant to section 204 of the FPA, to issue securities and to assume obligations or liabilities as guarantor, endorser, surety or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issue or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of Kincaid, compatible with the public interest, and reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

(H) The Commission reserves the right to modify this order to require a further showing that neither public or private interests will be adversely affected by continued Commission approval of Kincaid's issuances of securities or assumptions of liabilities * * *.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is March 3, 1997.

Copies of the full text of the Order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-3744 Filed 2-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER97-683-000]

Northwest Natural Gas Company; Notice of Issuance of Order

February 11, 1997.

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

On February 6, 1997, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Applications, Office of