

workshop by July 28, 1997. Please provide your name, organization, address, phone number and the specific workshop (Dallas or Reston) you plan to attend to: Sharon J. Long, Waste Acceptance and Transportation Division, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (RW-44), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585. Telephone: (202) 586-5263. Fax: (202) 586-9764. E-Mail: Sharon.J.Long@rw.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sharon J. Long (202)-586-5263.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is mandated under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (the Act), to provide for the safe management, including transportation, and permanent disposal of our Nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The Act created the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste (OCRWM) within the Department to implement this mandate. These workshops will provide a forum for interested parties to discuss issues and concerns related to NWPAT transportation activities. There will be two separate facilitated workshops. On the second day of each workshop, individuals from each session will report back to the group in the closing plenary session. An opportunity will be provided for public comments.

A block of hotel rooms has been reserved in Dallas and in Reston. Please contact the hotels directly for reservations: The GRAND Kempinski Dallas (972) 386-6000 (cut-off date for reservations is July 18) and Hyatt Regency at Reston Town Center (703) 709-1234 (cut-off date for reservations is July 25).

Airport shuttles to hotels are available. In Dallas, transportation to the hotel is available via SuperShuttle at a cost of \$12-13 one way—advance reservations are required—(800) 258-3826. In Reston, a complimentary Hyatt shuttle bus runs between Dulles airport and the hotel.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 8, 1997.

Ronald A. Milner,

Acting Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[FERC Form-580]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

July 8, 1997

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 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. No. 104-13). Any interested person may file comments on the collection of information directly with OMB and should address a copy of these comments to the Commission, as explained below. The Commission received comments from two entities in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of March 13, 1997 (62 FR 11852) and has replied to these comments in its submission to OMB.

DATES: Comments must be filed within 30 days of publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to the 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 the 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 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 Form No. 580, "Interrogatory on Fuel and Energy Purchase Practices, Docket No. IN79-6"
2. Sponsor: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
3. Control No.: 1902-0137. 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 the statutory provisions of the Federal Power Act (FPA). The FPA was amended by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (P.L. 95-617) to require the Commission to review "not less frequently than every two (2) years * * * of practices * * * to ensure efficient use of resources (including economical purchase and use of fuel and electric energy) * * *". The information is used to: (1) evaluate fuel costs in individual rate filings; (2) review fuel costs passed through automatic fuel adjustment clauses, as determined during periodic compliance audits of utility books and records; and (3) to initiate Commission action under Section 205(f)(3) of the FPA. The Commission's regulations require that a determination be made that wholesale rates are just and reasonable. To make this determination, it is necessary to investigate and analyze the different types of costs incurred in providing electric service. One such expense is fuel costs, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of the electric utility's total operating costs.

To allay its concern that utilities lack incentives to minimize fuel costs, Congress directed the Commission to review utility fuel and energy purchase practices to insure that fuel costs are reasonable. To properly assess the effectiveness of utility fuel procurement programs it is necessary to address a wide range of issues that directly impact fuel expenses.

5. Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises approximately 150 respondents.

6. Estimated Burden: 6,031 total burden Hours (12,061 every two years), 129 respondents, 64.5 responses annually (129 responses every two years), 93.5 hours per response (average).

Statutory Authority: Sections 205(f) of the Federal Power Act, as amended by Section 208 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. (49 Stat. 851; 16 U.S.C. 824d).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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