

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC98-2000; FERC Form 2]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

June 18, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before August 24, 1998.

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 Chief Information

Officer, CI-1 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 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 michael.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form 2 "Annual Report of Major Natural Gas Companies" (OMB No. 1902-0028) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), (15 U.S.C. 717). The NGA authorizes the Commission to prescribe rules and regulations concerning accounts, records and memoranda as necessary or appropriate for purposes of administering the NGA. The Commission may prescribe a system of accounts for jurisdictional companies and, after notice and opportunity for hearing may determine the accounts in which particular outlays and receipts will be entered, charged or credited.

The Commission's Office of Chief Accountant uses the information collected in its audit program and the continuous review of the financial condition of regulated companies. The

Office of Pipeline Regulation uses the data in its various rate proceedings and supply programs, and the Offices of Economic Policy and General Counsel use the data in their programs relating to the administration of the NGA. Data on certain schedules of the FERC Form 2 is used to compute annual charges which are then assessed against natural gas companies to recover the Commission's annual costs. These annual charges are required by Section 3401 of the Budget Act.

The NGA mandates the collection of information needed by the Commission to perform its regulatory responsibilities in the setting of just and reasonable rates. The Commission could be held in violation of the NGA if the information was not collected.

The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR Section 260.1, and Parts 158 and 201 and Section 385.2011.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

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)
58	1	1,485	86,130

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 86,130 hours divided by 2088 hours per year times \$109,889 per year equals \$4,532,921. The cost per respondent is equal to \$78,154.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclosure, 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 of 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 Commission'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.

David P. Boergers,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-16712 Filed 6-23-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC98-2A-000; FERC Form 2-A]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

June 18, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is