

[FR Doc. 98-19370 Filed 7-20-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Publication Activities

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration, DOE

**ACTION:** Notice of discontinuation of publications.

**SUMMARY:** The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is advising the public that it intends to cease publication of two reports in the electric power publication series.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted in writing on or before September 4, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to John G. Colligan, EI-531, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20585-0650, (202) 426-1174, e-mail jcolliga@eia.doe.gov, and fax (202) 426-1311.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to John Colligan at the address listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

#### I. Background

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91), the EIA is obliged to carry out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program. As part of this program, EIA collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates data and information related to energy resource reserves, production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs.

#### II. Current Actions

The EIA intends to discontinue the publication of following two reports: *Financial Statistics of Major U.S. Investor-Owned Electric Utilities*—DOE/EIA-0437(yr)/1 and *U.S. Electric Utility Demand-Side Management*—DOE/EIA-0589(yr).

The final issue of the *Financial Statistics of Major U.S. Investor-Owned*

*Electric Utilities* would be the issue dated December 1997, published on December 8, 1997, and covers the 1996 data year. In view of limited resources, the Department proposes that the issuance of this publication be discontinued because the data contained in this publication are collected by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and will be available through FERC.

The last issue of the *U.S. Electric Utility Demand-Side Management* would be the December 1997 issue, published on December 19, 1997, and covers the 1996 data. In order to reduce respondent burden, the EIA restructured Schedule V, "Demand-Side Management Information," on the Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Utility Report," during the 1997 survey re-clearance. The Form EIA-861 requires less detailed Demand Side Management (DSM) data from the reporting utilities. Starting with 1997, the DSM data are collected in a summary format and will continue to be published in the *Electric Power Annual, Volume II*. The annual detail DSM data will be posted on the Internet.

#### III. Request for Comments

Prospective users of these data and other interested parties may comment on the actions discussed in item II if they so desire. DOE will carefully consider all comments and if it is persuaded by the comments to continue publication of either report, it will publish a notice of its decision.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 15, 1998.

**Jay H. Casselberry,**  
Agency Clearance Officer, Statistics and Methods Group, Energy Information Administration

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[FERC-537 IC98-537-000]

#### Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

July 15, 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)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy

Regulatory (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 September 21, 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 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 michael.miller@ferc.fed.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collected under the requirements of FERC-537 "Gas Pipeline Certificates: Construction, Acquisition, and Abandonment" (OMB No. 1902-0060) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA), (15 U.S.C. 3301-3432), and of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w). Under the NGA a natural gas company must obtain Commission authorization to engage in the transportation or sale of natural gas in interstate commerce, to undertake the construction or extension of any facilities, or to acquire or operate any such facilities or extensions in accordance with Section 7c of the NGA. A natural gas company must also obtain Commission approval under Section 7(b) of the NGA prior to abandoning any jurisdictional facility or service. Under the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) interstate and intrastate pipelines must also obtain Commission authorization for certain transportation arrangements.

Information collection is necessary to certificate interstate pipelines engaged in the transportation and sale of natural gas, and the construction, acquisition, and operation of facilities to be used for those activities, to authorize the abandonment of facilities and services and to authorize certain NGPA transportations. If a certificate is granted, the natural gas company can engage in the interstate transportation or sale of natural gas and construct, acquire, or operate facilities therefore. Conversely, approval of an abandonment application permits the pipeline to cease service and discontinue the operation of such facilities. Authorization under NGPA Section 311(a) allows the interstate or intrastate pipeline applicants to render certain transportation services.