

Issued in Washington, D.C., on September 30, 1998.

Anthony J. Como,

Manager, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[IC98-537-001 FERC-537]

Information Collection Submitted for Review and Request for Comments

September 30, 1998.

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 information collection listed in this notice to the 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 did not receive any comments in response to an earlier notice issued July 15, 1998, 63 FR 39082, July 21, 1998.

DATES: Comments regarding this collection of information are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before November 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. A copy of the comments should also be sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 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, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.millerferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description

The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review contains:

1. *Collection of Information:* FERC-537 "Gas Pipeline Certificates: Construction, Acquisition, and Abandonment".
2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
3. *Control No.:* OMB No. 1902-0060. The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no changes to the existing requirements of this information collection. This information collection will be the subject of two proposed rules to be issued shortly by the Commission calling for the modification of these requirements. The Commission will provide separate submissions for each proposed rule for OMB review. This is a mandatory information collection requirement.

4. *Necessity of Collection of Information:* Submission of the information is necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (Pub. L. 75-688) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w) and the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) (15 U.S.C. 3301-3432). Under the NGA, natural gas pipeline companies must obtain Commission authorization to undertake the construction or extension of any facilities or extension of any facilities, or to acquire or operate any such facilities or extensions in accordance with Section 7(c) 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 NGPA Interstate and intrastate pipelines must also obtain authorization for certain transportation arrangements.

The information collected 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 construct, acquire, or operate facilities plus engage in interstate transportation or sale of natural gas. 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.

The data required to be submitted consists of identification of the company and responsible officials, factors considered in the location of the facilities and the impact on the area for environmental considerations. Also to be submitted are flow diagrams showing design capacity of engineering design verification and safety determination, and gas reserves data for appraisal of the feasibility of the project. Market data presenting the economic basis for the proposed action are included when appropriate as cost of proposed facilities, plans for refinancing, and estimated revenues and expenses related to the proposed facility for financial and accounting evaluation. The Commission implements these information collection requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 Sections 2.69; 157.5-11; 157.13-.21; 157.102-103; 157.106; 157.201-208; 157.210-218; 284.8-9; 284.11; 284.126; 284.221; 284.223-224; part 284, subpart H.

5. *Respondent Description:* The respondent universe currently comprises on average, 50 respondents subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. *Estimated Burden:* 146.160 total burden hours, 50 respondents, 11.6 responses annually, 252 hours per response (average).

7. *Estimated Cost Burden to Respondents:* 146,160 hours ÷ 2,088 hours per x \$109,889 per year=\$7,692,230.

Statutory Authority: Sections 7(b) and (c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), 15 U.S.C. 717-717w and Section 311(a) of the Natural Gas Policy Act (15 U.S.C. 3301-3432).

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project Nos. 2555-001, 2557-004, 2556-004, 2559-003]

Kennebec Water District, Central Maine Power Company, Maine; Notice of Technical Conference

September 30, 1998.

Take notice that on Wednesday, October 14, at 9:00 a.m., the Commission staff will convene a technical conference in the above captioned docket at the offices of Central Maine Power, 41 Anthony Avenue, Augusta, Maine. Any party, as defined in a 18 CFR 385.102(c) and any