

standards will be necessary to protect the reliability of the bulk power system in a restructured electricity industry. The Administration's proposed comprehensive electricity restructuring legislation—the Comprehensive Electricity Competition Act (CECA) (H.R.1828 and S.1047 in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate respectively)—includes a provision that would amend the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 791a, *et seq.*) to require FERC to approve the formation of and oversee a self-regulating reliability organization that prescribes and enforces mandatory reliability standards. Several other bills introduced in the 106th Congress included similar proposals. Although the Senate approved S. 2071, which authorizes mandatory reliability standards, on June 30, 2000, the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives failed to act on this or any other electric reliability-related legislation.

Because the 106th Congress is likely to adjourn without enacting legislation to improve the reliability of the electric grid, DOE is considering using its authority under section 403 of the DOE Organization Act to initiate an electric reliability rulemaking at FERC. To assist DOE in its consideration of this issue, we are requesting comments on the following questions:

1. Is the existing arrangement of voluntary compliance with industry reliability rules sufficient to ensure reliability of the bulk power transmission system? If not, why not, and has reliability been jeopardized by violations of the existing bulk power reliability standards?
2. What can FERC do under existing authorities to address reliability concerns?
3. If FERC has the authority to establish and enforce reliability standards, may FERC delegate such authority to a self-regulating reliability organization? Should it do so?
4. Are there elements in CECA, or other electric reliability legislative language, which can, with or without modification, be used in a rulemaking?
5. What should the relationship be between Regional Transmission Organizations, as advanced in FERC

Order No. 2000, 65 FR 809 (January 6, 2000), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31, 089 (2000), and an Electric Reliability Organization as proposed in CECA?

6. How should the responsibilities and roles of FERC and the States be addressed in a rulemaking?

7. Recognizing the international nature of the interconnected transmission grid, how could implementation of mandatory reliability standards be coordinated with Canada and Mexico?

In addition to the above, commenters are encouraged to discuss, comment on, and make suggestions on other electric reliability issues that may be relevant to DOE's consideration of a rulemaking. Comments submitted pursuant to the Notice of Inquiry will be deemed public and will not be treated as confidential.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on November 15, 2000.

Bill Richardson,

Secretary of Energy.

[FR Doc. 00-29600 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC01-512-000]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

November 14, 2000.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

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 (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 January 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the proposed collection of information 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) 208-2425 and by E-mail at mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Abstract: The FERC-512, "Application for Preliminary Permit" (OMB No. 1902-0073) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Sections 4(f), 5 and 7 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. Sections 791a *et seq.* & 3301-3432. The purpose of obtaining a preliminary permit is to maintain priority of the application for a license for a hydroelectric power facility while examining and surveying to prepare maps, plans, specifications and estimates; conducting engineering, economic and environmental feasibility studies; and making financial arrangements. The conditions under which the priority will be maintained are set forth in each permit. During the term of the permit, no other application for a preliminary permit or application for a license submitted by another party can be accepted. The term of a permit is three years. The information collected under the designation FERC-512 is in the form of a written application for a preliminary permit which is used by Commission staff to determine the qualifications of the applicant to hold a preliminary permit, review the proposed hydro development for feasibility and to issue a notice of the application to solicit public and agency comments. The Commission implements these mandatory filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR 4.31-.33, 4.81-82.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection of data.

Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

	Annual responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
45	1	73	3,285

Estimated cost burden to respondents is \$182,186; (*i.e.*, 3,285 hours divided by

2,080 hours per full time employee per year multiplied by \$115,357 per year

equals \$182,186). The cost per respondent is \$4,049.

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

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-29580 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER 363 000]

American Transmission Systems, Inc.; Notice of Filing

November 13, 2000.

Take note that on November 3, 2000, American Transmission Systems, Inc., tendered for filing proposed amendments to its Open Access Transmission Tariff designed to implement the Ohio Retail Electric Program. American Transmission Systems, Inc., requests waiver of notice to permit an effective date of January 1, 2001 for the amendments.

Copies of this filing have been served on the transmission customers of American Transmission Systems, Inc., Parties to FirstEnergy's Ohio transition plan case, and the utility commissions in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such 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 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before November 24, 2000. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. 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. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). Comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-29592 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-301-010]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

November 14, 2000.

Take notice that on November 2, 2000, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following revised tariff sheet proposed to become effective November 1, 2000:

Original Sheet No. 14R

ANR advises that the purpose of the filing is to implement new negotiated rate transactions that supplement the previously approved restructured portfolio of negotiated rate transactions with Wisconsin Public Service Corporation.

ANR states that a copy of this filing is being mailed to the affected shippers and to each of ANR's FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1 and Original Volume No. 2 customers, and interested state regulatory commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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 proceedings. 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 in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). Comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm>.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-29584 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

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