

surveys will replicate components of the methodological design, sampling procedures (where possible), and questionnaires of a full-scale survey. Pilot surveys may be utilized when EIA is undertaking a complete revamping of a survey methodology (e.g., moving to computer-assisted information collections) or when EIA is undertaking a new information collection.

### 3. Focus groups

Focus groups involve group sessions guided by a monitor who follows a topical outline containing questions or topics focused on a particular issue, rather than adhering to a standardized questionnaire. Focus groups are useful for surfacing and exploring issues. Focus groups are typically used with specific groups of stakeholders.

### 4. Cognitive interviews

Cognitive interviews are one-on-one interviews in which a respondent is typically asked to "think aloud" as he or she answers survey questions, reads survey materials, or completes other activities as part of a survey process. A number of different techniques may be involved, including asking respondents to paraphrase questions, probing questions to determine how respondents come up with their answers, and similar inquiries. The objective is to identify problems of ambiguity, misunderstanding, or other difficulties respondents have answering questions. This may be used as the first stage of questionnaire development.

A wide variety of uses are made of the data obtained through this generic clearance. These projects represent significant strides in our efforts to improve the pretesting of EIA surveys. As EIA gains more experience, we hope to broaden involvement in testing, evaluation, and research.

## II. Current Actions

EIA plans to request a three-year extension of the OMB approval for this collection. For each information collection that EIA proposes to undertake under this generic clearance, OMB will be notified at least two weeks in advance, and provided with an information copy of the collection instrument and all other materials describing the testing activity. EIA will only undertake a collection if OMB does not object to EIA's proposal.

## III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of comments.

### General Issues

A. Are the Types of Proposed Collections of Information Necessary for the Proper Performance of the Functions of the Agency and Does the Information Have Practical Utility?

Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What Enhancements Can Be Made to the Quality, Utility, and Clarity of the Information To Be Collected?

#### As a Potential Respondent

A. Public reporting burden for collections under the generic clearance are estimated to average 25 minutes per response. The range for burden varies significantly depending on the particular type of testing activity undertaken. The estimated burden for each response includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose and provide the information.

Please comment on the (1) the accuracy of the agency's estimate and (2) how the agency could minimize the burden of collecting this information, including the use of information technology.

B. The agency estimates that the only cost to a respondent is for the time it will take to complete the collection. Will a respondent incur start-up costs for reporting, or any recurring annual costs for operation, maintenance, and purchase of services associated with the information collection?

C. Does any other Federal, State, or local agency collect similar information? If so, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

#### As a Potential Data User

A. Are there alternate sources for the information and are they useful? If so, what are their deficiencies and/or strengths?

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the form. They also will become a matter of public record.

**Statutory Authority:** Section 3507(h)(1) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Issued in Washington, DC February 1, 2002.

Jay H. Casselberry,

Agency Clearance Officer, Statistics and Methods Group, Energy Information Administration.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC01-2-001 FERC Form No. 2]

### Information Collection Submitted for Review and Request for Comments

February 1, 2002.

**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 energy 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. No. 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 received one comment from an entity who supported the continued use of this information collection. The comments were in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of September 28, 2001 (66 FR 49653). The Commission has acknowledged these comments in its submission to OMB.

**DATES:** Comments regarding this collection of information are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification.

**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. The Desk Officer may also be reached at (202) 395-7318. 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:** Mr. Miller may be reached by telephone at

(202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 208-2425, and by e-mail at mike.miller@ferc.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Description

The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review contains:

1. Collection of Information: FERC Form 2 "Annual Report of Major Natural Gas Companies"
2. Sponsor: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
3. Control No.: OMB No. 1902-0028. The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no proposed changes to the existing collection. There is an adjustment to the reporting burden due to an additional respondent since the Commission's last submission in 1998. In addition, the availability of Form 2 submission software for all filers for the 2001 filing year, will the Commission believes, reduce the burden as respondents will benefit from user support at the Commission and from filing the FERC Form 2 electronically through the Commission's gateway on its website. This is a mandatory information collection requirement.
4. Necessity of Collection of Information: Submission of the information is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing the provisions of the Natural Gas Act (NGA). Under the NGA the Commission may prescribe a system of accounts for jurisdictional companies, and after notice and hearing, may determine the accounts in which particular outlays and receipts will be entered, charged or credited. The FERC Form 2 is designed to collect financial information from "Major Natural Gas Companies". A company is defined as a "Major Natural Gas Company" if its combined gas transported or stored exceeded 50 million dekatherms (dth) in each of the three previous calendar years. The form collects general corporate information: summary financial information, balance sheet and income statement supporting information, gas plant, operating expenses and statistical data. The information collected is used by the Commission, state regulatory agencies and others in the review of the financial condition of the regulated companies, in various rate proceedings and audit programs and in the assessment of annual charges which are necessary to recover the Commission's costs.
5. Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises on average, 57 companies

subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. Estimated Burden: 84,360 total burden hours, 57 respondents, 1 response annually, 1,480 hours per response (average).

7. Estimated Cost Burden to Respondents: 84,360 hours ÷ 2,080 hours per year × \$117,041 per year = \$ 4,746,913 average cost per respondent = \$83,279.

**Statutory Authority:** Sections 8 and 10 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), 15 U.S.C. 717g-717i.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. ER02-199-000, ER02-218-000, ER02-219-000, ER02-220-000, ER02-221-000, ER02-222-000, ER02-223-000, ER02-224-000, ER02-225-000, ER02-226-000, ER02-227-000, ER02-228-000, ER02-229-000, ER02-230-000, ER02-498-000, ER02-788-000, EL02-50-000]

##### Mississippi Power Company, Southern Company Services, Inc., Georgia Power Company, Alabama Power Company, Gulf Power Company, Southern Company Services, Inc.; Notice Specifying Time for Submission of State Commission Comments

February 1, 2002.

Take notice that on January 30, 2002, the Commission issued an order in this proceeding that set these dockets for a trial-type, evidentiary hearing, but held the hearing in abeyance. Because the triennial review process of the underlying settlements did not explicitly invite state commission comments, the Commission explained in its January 30 order that it wished to solicit comments and views as to the reasonableness of the formula rates at issue in these dockets from the state commissions for the states where the retail customers of the entities which are purchasers under the rate schedules at issue in these dockets are located. *Mississippi Power Co., et al.*, 98 FERC ¶ 61,065 (2002).

Accordingly, the Commission invites comments and views as to the reasonableness of the formula rates at issue in these dockets from the state commissions for the states where the retail customers of the entities which are purchasers under the rate schedules at issue in these dockets are located.

Such comments and views shall be filed on or before February 28, 2002, and should reference the above dockets.

The Commission does not intend to permit answers to the state commissions' comments and views.

**Magalie R. Salas,**  
*Secretary.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-40-029]

##### Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company; Notice of Refund Report

February 1, 2002.

Take notice that on January 25, 2002, Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company (Panhandle) filed a Refund Report in the above-referenced docket pursuant to a settlement approved by the Commission on September 13, 2001. On December 28, 2001, Panhandle refunded to its jurisdictional customers their allocated share of the refunds of Kansas ad valorem taxes Panhandle received from its producer suppliers in accordance with the settlement.

Panhandle states that Schedules 1 and 2 show the refunds Settling Working Interest Owners made, the Jurisdictional/Non-Jurisdictional allocation, and the derivations of the Jurisdictional Sales Customer refund amounts. These schedules reflect the Missouri Public Service Commission's (MoPSC) election to opt-out off discrete portions of the settlement. Panhandle adjusted the jurisdictional customer distribution allocation to reflect MoPSC's election. Schedule 3 includes refund statements for large and small first sellers, that show the refund amounts due, including additional interest for the period February 1, 2001 to October 15, 2001. Schedule 4 lists the Non-Settling First Sellers that have not provided refunds under the settlement. Panhandle provided copies of its filing to all parties and respective State Regulatory Commissions.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed on or before February 22, 2002. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will