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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket: RSPA-98-4957]

Request for Public Comments and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Approval of an Existing Information Collection (2137-0601)

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

SUMMARY: This notice requests public participation in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval process for the renewal of an existing PHMSA information collection. In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) described below has been forwarded to OMB for extension of the currently approved collection. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and the expected burden. PHMSA published a **Federal Register** Notice soliciting comments on the following information collection and received none. The purpose of this notice is to allow the public an additional 30 days from the date of this notice to submit comments.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 23, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT Desk Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Fuentevilla, (202) 366-6199, by e-mail at William.Fuentevilla@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are invited on whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collections; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques of other forms of information technology. PHMSA published a **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period

for this ICR on August 11, 2005 (70 FR 46915).

Underwater pipelines are being abandoned at an increasing rate as older facilities reach the end of their useful life. This trend is expected to continue. In 1992, Congress responded to this issue by amending the Pipeline Safety Act (49 U.S.C. 60108(c)(6)(B)). The Act directs the Secretary of Transportation to require operators of an offshore pipeline facility, or a pipeline crossing navigable waters, to report the abandonment to the Secretary of Transportation in a way that specifies whether the facility has been abandoned properly according to applicable Federal and State requirements. PHMSA's regulations for abandonment reporting can be found at 49 CFR 192.727 and 195.402.

This information collection supports the DOT strategic goal of safety by reducing the number of fatalities, injuries, and amount of property damage.

As used in this notice, "information collection" includes all work related to preparing and disseminating information related to this recordkeeping requirement including completing paperwork, gathering information and conducting telephone calls.

Type of Information Collection Request: Renewal of Existing Collection.

Title of Information Collection: Pipeline Safety Reports of Abandoned Underwater Pipelines

Respondents: Gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents per Year: 10.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 60 hours.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 18, 2005.

Florence L. Hamn,

Director of Regulations, Office of Pipeline Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket: RSPA-98-4957]

Request for Public Comments and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Approval of an Existing Information Collection (2137-0600)

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

(PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

SUMMARY: This notice requests public participation in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval process for the renewal of an existing PHMSA information collection. In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) described below has been forwarded to OMB for extension of the currently approved collection. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and the expected burden. PHMSA published a **Federal Register** Notice soliciting comments on the following collection of information and received none. The purpose of this notice is to allow the public an additional 30 days from the date of this notice to submit comments.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are invited on whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collections; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques of other forms of information technology. PHMSA published a **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period for this ICR on August 11, 2005 (70 FR 46914).

Congress expressed concern with unskilled pipeline personnel in the Pipeline Safety and Reauthorization Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-561). This Act authorized the Secretary of Transportation to require all individuals responsible for the operation and maintenance of pipeline facilities to be properly qualified to safely perform their tasks. The operator qualification requirements are described in the pipeline safety regulations at 49 CFR part 192, subpart N and 49 CFR part 195, subpart G.