

wetlands. DOE hereby gives early notice that it will include in the Draft EIS a floodplain and wetland assessment prepared in accordance with the DOE Regulations for Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements (10 CFR Part 1022) and provides for early public input.

DATES: DOE intends to issue the Draft EIS containing the floodplain and wetland assessment in the near future. Any suggestions related to preparation of the floodplain and wetland assessment would be most helpful if received no later than April 12, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Suggestions or questions may be submitted by any of the following methods, identified by "Notice of Floodplain and Wetland Actions for the SPR EIS" on the subject line, cover sheet, or envelope, respectively:

- E-mail:

Donald.Silawsky@hq.doe.gov.

- Fax: (202) 586-4446.

- Mail: Donald Silawsky, Office of Petroleum Reserves (FE-47), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0301. Please note that mail may be delayed by anthrax screening.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: To receive information on the proposed expansion of the SPR or the floodplain and wetland assessments, or to request a copy of the Draft EIS when it is issued, contact Donald Silawsky by any of the means listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice, or call (202) 586-1892. Additional information may also be found on the DOE Fossil Energy Web site for "EIS Information for Expanding the Nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserves" at <http://www.fe.doe.gov/programs/reserves/spr/expansion-eis.html>.

For further information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119; telephone: (202) 586-4600; fax: (202) 586-7031; or leave a toll-free message at: (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: DOE published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS for site selection for the expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve at 70 FR 52088 on September 1, 2005. In response to conditions following Hurricane Katrina, DOE extended the scoping period through October 28, 2005 (70 FR 56649; September 28, 2005)

and held public scoping meetings in Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. On October 27, 2005, the Governor of Mississippi requested the Secretary of Energy to include a new site at Bruinsburg Salt Dome in the analysis of environmental impacts. On November 22, 2005 (70 FR 70600), in response to the inclusion of the new site, DOE announced that another public meeting would be held in Mississippi on December 7, 2005, and the public scoping period would be reopened until December 19, 2005.

Locations of Potential Actions in Wetlands and Floodplains

Construction and Operation of Reserves. Candidate sites for expansion of existing Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage capacity are at West Hackberry and Bayou Choctaw, Louisiana, and Big Hill, Texas. Candidate sites for construction of new Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage capacity are at Chacahoula and Clovelly, Louisiana; Richton and Bruinsburg, Mississippi; and Stratton Ridge, Texas. The expansion sites and the candidate construction sites all involve potential actions in floodplains and/or wetlands.

Petroleum Pipelines. The candidate Big Hill, Bayou Choctaw, and West Hackberry expansion sites and the new candidate Chacahoula, Clovelly, Richton, Bruinsburg, and Stratton Ridge sites involve potential construction of crude oil or product pipelines in floodplains and/or wetlands.

Brine Pipelines. The candidate Big Hill and Bayou Choctaw expansion sites and the new candidate Chacahoula, Richton, Bruinsburg, and Stratton Ridge sites involve potential construction of brine pipelines in floodplains and/or wetlands.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 21, 2006.

Mark J. Matarrese,

NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Fossil Energy.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC06-505-000; FERC-505]

Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

March 21, 2006.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due May 21, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Copies of sample filings of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>) or from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Executive Director, ED-34, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those parties filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. For paper filing, the original and 14 copies of such comments should be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and refer to Docket No. IC06-505-000.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in WordPerfect, MS Word, Portable Document Format, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and click on "Make an E-filing," and then follow the instructions for each screen. First time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgement to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of comments.

All comments may be viewed, printed or downloaded remotely via the Internet through FERC's homepage using the eLibrary link. For user assistance, contact FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 502-8415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC-505 "Application for License for Water Projects with less than 5MW capacity" (OMB No. 1902-0115) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Part I of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. sections 791a *et seq.* & 3301-3432, as amended by the Electric Consumers Protections Act (ECPA)

(Pub. L. 99-495, 100 Stat. 1234 (1986). The FPA as amended by ECPA provides the Commission with the responsibility of issuing licenses for nonfederal hydroelectric power plants, plus requiring the Commission in its licensing activities to give equal consideration to preserving environmental quality. ECPA also amended sections 10(a) and 10(j) of the FPA to specify the conditions on which hydropower licenses are issued, to direct that the project be adopted in accordance with a comprehensive plan that improves waterways for interstate/foreign commerce and for the protection, enhancement and mitigation of damages to fish and wildlife.

Submission of the information is necessary to fulfill the requirements of Sections 9 and 10(a) of the Act in order for the Commission to make the required finding that the proposal is economically, technically, and environmentally sound, and is best adapted to the comprehensive plan of development of the water resources of the region. Under section 405(c) of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, the Commission may in its discretion (by rule or order) grant an exemption in whole or in part from the requirements of Part I of the FPA to small hydroelectric power projects having a proposed installed capacity of 5,000 kilowatts or less. The information collected under designation FERC-505 is in the form of a written application for a license and is used by Commission

staff to determine the broad impact of the license application.

In Order No. 2002 (68 FR 51070, August 25, 2003; FERC Statutes and Regulations ¶ 31,150 at p. 30,688) the Commission revised in regulations to create a new licensing process in which a potential license applicant's pre-filing consultation and the Commission's scoping pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are conducted concurrently rather than sequentially. The Commission estimated that if an applicant chooses to use the new licensing process, this could result in a reduction of 30% from the traditional licensing process. The reporting burden related to Order No. 2002 would on average be 7,000 hours per respondent as opposed to 10,000 hours per respondent in the traditional licensing process and 8,600 hours in the alternative licensing process. It has been nearly three years since Order No. 2002 was issued and applicants have experienced the opportunity to gain the benefits from the revised licensing process. In particular, applicants have benefited from (a) increased public participation in pre-filing consultation; (b) increased assistance from Commission staff to the potential applicant and stakeholders during the development of a license application; (c) development by the potential applicant of a Commission-approved study plan; (d) elimination of the need for post-application study requests; (e) issuance of public schedules and enforcement of deadlines, (f) better coordination

between the Commission's processes, including the NEPA document preparation, and those of Federal and state agencies and Indian tribes with authority to require conditions for Commission-issued licenses. It is for these reasons, that the Commission will use the estimates projected in the table below.

The information collected is needed to evaluate the license application pursuant to the comprehensive development standard of FPA sections 4(e) and 10(a)(1), to consider the comprehensive development analysis certain factors with respect to new license set forth in section 15, and to comply with NEPA, Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 531 *et seq.*) and the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Commission staff conducts a systematic review of the prepared application with supplemental documentation provided by the solicitation of comments from other agencies and the public. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR 4.61; 4.71; 4.93; 4.107; 4.108; 4.201; 4.202, 292.203 and 292.208.

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:

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
5	1	6,959*	34,795

* Rounded off.

Estimated cost burden to respondents is \$ 8,675,000. (\$1,500,000 (traditional process) + \$2,975,000 (alternative process) + \$4,200,000 (integrated process). These costs were determined by the percentage of applicants that would be using each of these processes. Annualized costs per project \$500,000 (traditional); \$425,000 (alternative licensing), and \$350,000 (integrated licensing).

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

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-4460 Filed 3-27-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP06-93-000]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Application

March 21, 2006.

Take notice that on March 15, 2006, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) filed an application pursuant to section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to abandon three injection/withdrawal wells, Frackelton-Sherwood 21, Lincoln 109, and Lincoln 123, located in the Lincoln-Freeman Storage Field in Clare County, Michigan, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call (866) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Any questions concerning this application may be directed to Dawn McGuire, Counsel, ANR Pipeline Company, 1001 Louisiana, Houston, Texas 77002 at (713) 420-5503.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party to the proceedings for this project should, before the comment date of this notice, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and

will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties. A party must submit 14 copies of filings made with the Commission and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party in the proceeding. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest.

Comments, protests and interventions 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 under the "e-Filing" link.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on April 11, 2006.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-4458 Filed 3-27-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-301-139]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Negotiated Rate Filing

March 21, 2006.

Take notice that on March 17, 2006, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) tendered for filing and approval ten amendments to existing negotiated rate service agreements between ANR and Wisconsin Gas LLC and fourteen amendments to existing negotiated rate service agreements between ANR and Wisconsin Electric Power Company.

ANR requests that the Commission accept and approve the subject negotiated rate agreement amendments to be effective April 1, 2006.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and

Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). 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 proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed in accordance with the provisions of Section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 154.210). Anyone filing an intervention or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant. Anyone filing an intervention or protest on or before the intervention or protest date need not serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive e-mail notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-4470 Filed 3-27-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP00-305-025]

CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation; Notice of Filing

March 21, 2006.

Take notice that on March 17, 2006, CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation (MRT) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Vol. No. 1, Second Revised Sheet No. 10D, to be effective March 31, 2006.