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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC19-3-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-546); Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-546 (Certificated Rate Filings: Gas Pipeline Rates).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due January 2, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC19-3-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's website:* <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>.

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,

Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. For user assistance contact FERC Online Support by email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

Docket: Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Brown may be reached by email at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-546, Certificated Rate Filings: Gas Pipeline Rates.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0155.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-546 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The requirements of the FERC-546 information collection are contained within the Commission's regulations in 18 CFR parts 154.7, 154.202, 154.204-154.208, 154.602-154.603, 284.501-284.505, and 154.4. The Commission reviews the FERC-546 materials to decide whether to approve rates and tariff changes associated with an application for a certificate under Natural Gas Act (NGA) section 7(c). Additionally, FERC reviews FERC-546

materials in NGA section 4(f), storage applications, to evaluate an applicant's market power and determine whether to grant market-based rate authority to the applicant. The Commission uses the information in FERC-546 to monitor jurisdictional transportation, natural gas storage, and unbundled sales activities of interstate natural gas pipelines and Hinshaw¹ pipelines. In addition to fulfilling the Commission's obligations under the NGA, the FERC-546 enables the Commission to monitor the activities and evaluate transactions of the natural gas industry, ensure competitiveness, and improve efficiency of the industry's operations. In summary, the Commission uses the information to:

- Ensure adequate customer protections under NGA section 4(f);
- Review rate and tariff changes filed under NGA section 7(c) for certification of natural gas pipeline transportation and storage services;
- Provide general industry oversight; and
- Supplement documentation during the pipeline audits process.

Failure to collect this information would prevent the Commission from monitoring and evaluating transactions and operations of jurisdictional pipelines and performing its regulatory functions.

Type of Respondents: Jurisdictional pipeline companies and storage operators.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*² The Commission estimates the annual reporting burden and cost for the information collection as:

FERC-546 (CERTIFICATED RATE FILINGS: GAS PIPELINE RATES)

	Annual number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses (rounded)	Average burden and cost per response ³ (rounded)	Total annual burden hours and total annual cost (rounded)	Cost per respondent (\$) (rounded)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
Pipeline Certificate Filings and Storage Applications.	51	⁴ 1.471	75	500 hrs.; \$40,000	37,500 hrs.; \$3,000,000	⁵ \$58,824

¹ Hinshaw pipelines are those that receive all out-of-state gas from entities within or at the boundary of a state if all the natural gas so received is ultimately consumed within the state in which it is received, 15 U.S.C. 717(c). Congress concluded that Hinshaw pipelines are "matters primarily of local concern," and so are more appropriately regulated by pertinent state agencies rather than by FERC. The Natural Gas Act section 1(c) exempts Hinshaw pipelines from FERC jurisdiction. A Hinshaw pipeline, however, may apply for a FERC certificate to transport gas outside of state lines.

² "Burden" is defined as the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For further

explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, reference 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

³ The hourly cost (for salary plus benefits) uses the figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2017, for positions involved in the reporting and recordkeeping requirements. These figures include salary (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm) and benefits (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>) and are:

Electrical Engineer (Occupation Code: 17-2071; \$66.90/hour)
 Management Analyst (Occupation Code: 13-1111; \$63.32/hour)
 Accounting (Occupation Code: 13-2011; \$56.59/hours)

Computer and Mathematical (Occupation Code: 15-0000; \$63.25/hour)
 Legal (Occupation Code: 23-0000; \$143.68/hour)

The average hourly cost (salary plus benefits) is calculated weighting each of the previously mentioned wage categories as follows: \$66.90/hour (0.4) + \$63.32/hour (0.2) + \$56.59/hour (0.1) + \$63.25/hour (0.1) + \$143.68/hour (0.2) = \$80.14/hour. The Commission rounds this figure to \$80/hour.

⁴ This figure was calculated by dividing the total number of responses (75) by the total number of respondents (51). The resulting figure was then rounded to the nearest thousandth place.

⁵ Rounded from \$58,823.53.

The Commission is revising the burden hours per response for rate and tariff changes associated with certificate applications, from the current estimated averages of 40 hours per pipeline certificate project and 350 hours per storage application, to an overall average of 500 hours per project for all FERC-546 filings. The increase in the average hours per project is due to the complexity and length of time required in the planning and monitoring jurisdictional transportation of pipeline certificate and storage projects and that these additional hours need to be properly accounted for in FERC-546 filings.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the 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 and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: October 29, 2018.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-23994 Filed 11-1-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP16-116-000]

Texas LNG Brownsville, LLC; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Texas LNG Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Texas LNG Project, proposed by Texas LNG Brownsville, LLC (Texas LNG) in the above-referenced docket. Texas LNG requests authorization to site, construct, modify, and operate liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities on the Brownsville Ship Channel in Cameron County, Texas. The Texas LNG Project would include a new LNG export terminal capable of producing up to 4 million tonnes per annum of LNG for export. The terminal

would receive natural gas to the export facilities from a third-party intrastate pipeline.

The draft EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Texas LNG Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the Texas LNG Project would result in adverse environmental impacts. However, with the mitigation measures recommended in the EIS, impacts in the project area would be avoided or minimized and would not be significant, with the exception of visual resources when viewed from the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, the Texas LNG Project, combined with other projects in the geographic scope, including the Rio Grande LNG and Annova LNG Projects, would result in significant cumulative impacts from sediment/turbidity and shoreline erosions within the Brownsville Ship Channel during operations from vessel transits; on the federally listed ocelot and jaguarundi from habitat loss and potential for increased vehicular strikes during construction; and on visual resources from the presence of aboveground structures. Construction and operation of the Texas LNG Project would result in mostly temporary or short-term environmental impacts; however, some long-term and permanent environmental impacts would occur.

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis. Although the cooperating agencies provided input to the conclusions and recommendations presented in the draft EIS, the agencies will present their own conclusions and recommendations in their respective Records of Decision for the project.

The draft EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following project facilities:

- Gas gate station and interconnect facility;
- pretreatment facility for carbon dioxide removal and dehydration;
- turbo-expander for pentane plus heavy carbon removal;
- a Liquefaction Plant consisting of two liquefaction trains and ancillary support facilities;
- two approximately 210,000 m³ aboveground full containment LNG storage tanks with cryogenic pipeline connections to the Liquefaction Plant and berthing dock;
- an LNG carrier berthing dock capable of receiving LNG carriers between approximately 130,000 m³ and 180,000 m³ in capacity;
- a permanent material offloading facility to allow waterborne deliveries of equipment and materials during construction and mooring of tug boats while an LNG carrier is at the berth;
- thermal oxidizer, warm wet flare, cold dry flare, spare flare, acid gas flare, and marine flare; and
- administration, control, maintenance, and warehouse buildings and related parking lots; electrical transmission line and substation, water pipeline, septic system, natural gas pipeline, and stormwater facilities/outfalls.

The Commission mailed a copy of the *Notice of Availability* to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; and newspapers and libraries in the project area. The draft EIS is only available in electronic format. It may be viewed and downloaded from the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov), on the Environmental Documents page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis.asp>). In addition, the draft EIS may be accessed by using the eLibrary link on the FERC's website. Click on the eLibrary link (<https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>), click on General Search, and enter the docket number in the Docket Number field, excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP16-116). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

Any person wishing to comment on the draft EIS may do so. Your comments should focus on draft EIS's disclosure and discussion of potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. To