number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov* or toll-free at 1–866–208–3676, or for TTY, (202) 502–8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also register online at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp* to be notified via e-mail of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

p. With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR 800.4.

q. *Procedural schedule:* The application will be processed according to the following Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

Issue Acceptance or Deficiency Letter: August 2004.

Request Additional Information: August 2004.

Issue Acceptance Letter: December 2004.

Issue Scoping Document 1 for comments: January 2005.

Request Additional Information (if necessary): March 2005.

Issue Scoping Document 2: March 2005.

Notice of application is ready for environmental analysis: March 2005.

Notice of the availability of the draft EA: September 2005.

Initiate 10(j) Process: November 2005.

Notice of the availability of the final EA: March 2006.

Ready for Commission's decision on the application: June 2006.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4–1732 Filed 8–5–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD04–10–000]

Enhanced Reporting of Natural Gas Storage Inventory Information; Notice of Technical Conference and Request for Written Comments on Enhanced Reporting of Natural Gas Storage Inventory Information

August 2, 2004.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) will hold a technical conference to explore whether the Commission should institute a generic rulemaking to consider whether the Commission should require interstate natural gas pipeline companies and other owners and operators of natural gas storage facilities to electronically post each day actual natural gas storage inventory levels on their systems for the preceding day. Specifically, the technical conference will explore the feasibility, usefulness and appropriateness of requiring posting on a standardized basis for the previous gas day (1) Net aggregate actual injection or withdrawal data; (2) actual total available working gas; and (3) actual total storage inventory volume. The conference will take place on September 28, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. (e.s.t.) in the Commission Meeting Room at the Commission's headquarters, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC. The Commission's staff will conduct the conference and members of the Commission may attend it. In preparation for the technical conference, the Commission invites all interested parties to submit written comments, addressing the subject and questions discussed below, on or before September 10, 2004.[1]

Background

Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. (e.s.t.), the United States Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) releases a report of natural gas storage inventory levels for the United States, including for Eastern, Western and Producing regions. The EIA compiles this report based on information provided to it by a sampling of storage owners and operators, usually on the Monday that precedes the Thursday report. The reporting companies provide weekly net aggregate storage inventory information for the week that ended with the gas day that ended on the preceding Friday. The EIA's release of its weekly report is a regularly watched event in the natural gas industry because changes in natural gas storage inventory levels can affect commodity prices, the price of NYMEX natural gas futures contracts, other physical and financial transactions, and a variety of transportation and storage transactions. Increased volatility observed in the trading of NYMEX natural gas futures contracts immediately following the EIA's release of its weekly storage report suggests the importance to many industry participants of information related to natural gas storage inventory levels. In addition, the order the Commission is issuing today approving Stipulation and Consent Agreements (Agreements) in Docket No. IN04–2–000, indicates that some market participants obtained non-public storage inventory information sourced from interstate pipelines, or in one case, a local distribution company (LDC), because of the perceived market value of this information.

The Commission currently requires interstate pipelines that provide service under blanket certificates pursuant to subparts B and G of part 284 of the Commission's regulations, to post the availability of all transportation services whenever capacity is scheduled at receipt points, on the mainline, at delivery points and at storage fields. 18 CFR 284.13(d)(1). This regulation does not address storage activity that is not subject to daily nomination and scheduling, such as no-notice storage and transportation services. Accordingly, pipelines have reported storage activities in different ways.

The interstate pipeline companies that executed the Agreements in Docket No. IN04–2–000 have indicated that they are, or soon will be, posting weekly net aggregate storage inventory information. Other interstate natural gas pipelines post storage inventory information on a daily basis, but may post injections and withdrawals attributable to no-notice contractual service on a weekly basis. Alternatively, storage activities attributable to no-notice contractual service may be partially posted, depending on whether customers make nominations at the pipeline's storage points for this service.

Inconsistent posting of storage activities and inventories hinders efforts to compare and make sense of this information, leading to less efficient market outcomes. Current posting

[1] The Commission issued an order today, in Docket No. IN04–2–000, approving three Stipulation and Consent Agreements (Agreements). These Agreements state that the two interstate natural gas pipeline companies and one local distribution company that signed the Agreements communicated their respective non-public storage inventory information to customers or industry participants.

practices impair the value of this information as a useful tool to understand and anticipate demand and other relevant industry trends. For example, traders who seek to determine optimal hedging strategies during peak periods or pipeline customers who seek to anticipate whether nominations to secondary points will likely be honored would benefit from more consistent and timely storage inventory information.

In addition, although section 284.13(d)(1) mandates reporting of scheduled volumes, actual volumes can be a superior indicator of inventory activity. Actual volumes can deviate significantly from scheduled volumes, particularly during periods of high demand.

Electronic metering permits natural gas pipeline companies to rapidly post net aggregate storage information on a daily basis. Actual, daily posting of day-before injection or withdrawal activity would speed communication of storage data to the public and provide nearer-in-time information than is provided in the EIA's weekly report. Increased transparency promotes efficiency and could deter abuses associated with non-public storage inventory information.

LDCs and intrastate pipelines that provide service pursuant to subpart C of part 284 of the Commission's regulations often own and operate substantial storage capacity. Many of these entities do not post storage inventory information. Posting such information would contribute to the goals of market transparency and abuse deterrence. However, posting of uniform storage inventory information could affect the often differing obligations and business purposes of these entities relative to interstate pipeline companies. Further, the Commission's jurisdiction over these entities is more limited than it is over interstate pipeline companies. The technical conference will seek to explore the feasibility and usefulness of requiring LDCs and intrastate pipelines that provide service pursuant to subpart C of part 284 of the Commission's regulations to post storage inventory information.

Questions for Comment

The Commission seeks comments on the following questions:

I.Questions for Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Companies, Their Customers and Other Industry Participants

A. How would standardized, daily posting of actual storage injection or withdrawal activity contribute to market transparency? What are the specific efficiencies that would result from such posting?

B. What costs and inefficiencies does the industry (or any parts of it) experience because of the current inconsistency of storage inventory reporting?

C. Are participants in physical and financial commodity markets concerned with price volatility following the release of the EIA's weekly storage report? Would improved posting of storage information be likely to reduce price volatility?

D. How important is posted storage inventory information to buying and selling gas and executing financial transactions?

E. How do pipeline customers use posted storage information to make decisions regarding nominations, the purchase of storage capacity, the purchase of gas, and other commodity and operational decisions?

F. How important is the timeliness of posting storage inventory information? Specifically, to what extent would daily reporting benefit the industry relative to the current daily and weekly posting of storage-related information by pipelines and the EIA?

G. In what ways and to what extent would posting of actual injection or withdrawal volumes be superior to posting scheduled injection or withdrawal volumes?

H. Could posting be fully consistent with the data that reporting pipelines provide the EIA on a weekly basis? What could be the cause for any differences and how significant would they be?

I. What costs would pipelines expect to incur to post standardized, daily actual injection or withdrawal volumes on a day-after basis? What concerns, if any, do pipelines have regarding the feasibility from a technical perspective of accurate storage inventory posting?

J. How should pipeline companies address the posting of inaccurate information and information that needs to be subsequently adjusted?

II. Questions for Intrastate Pipeline Companies and LDCs That Provide Service Pursuant to Subpart C of Part 284 of the Commission's Regulations, Their Customers and Other Industry Participants

A. To what extent do such intrastate pipeline companies and LDCs post storage inventory information? What storage information do they post?

B. What concerns would such intrastate pipeline companies and LDCs have with respect to posting their daily actual injection orwithdrawal activity on a day-after basis?

C. Does the Commission have the authority under Subpart C of 284 of its regulations, or under other statutory or regulatory authority, to require intrastate pipeline companies or LDCs to post storage inventory information?

D. What contribution to market transparency and efficiency would posting daily actual injection or withdrawal activity on a day-after basis have for natural gas markets and for customers of such intrastate pipeline companies and LDCs?

E. What costs would such intrastate pipeline companies and LDCs expect to incur to post standardized, daily actual injection or withdrawal volumes on a day-after basis? What concerns, if any, do intrastate pipeline companies and LDCs have regarding the feasibility from a technical perspective of such posting?

F. How should intrastate pipeline companies and LDCs address the posting of inaccurate information and information that needs to be subsequently adjusted?

Public Comment Information

As noted above, in preparation for the technical conference, the Commission invites interested persons to submit written comments on the matters raised in this notice, including any related matters or alternative proposals that commenters may wish to discuss. All written comments should be submitted on or before September 10, 2004. We are hereby establishing a proceeding, Docket No. AD04–10–000, to provide an opportunity for all interested persons to submit comments, and all future actions with respect to the technical conference will also be taken under this docket number.

All comments should include an executive summary that does not exceed two pages. Comments should not exceed 15 pages. In addition, if answering a specific question, please identify the question. To conserve time and avoid unnecessary expense, persons with common interests or views are encouraged to submit joint comments. Comments related to this proceeding may be filed in paper format or electronically. However, the Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. Those filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet can be prepared in a variety of formats, including MS Word, Portable Document Format, Real Text Format, or ASCII format, as listed on the Commission's Web site at *http://www.ferc.gov,* under the e-Filing link. The e-Filing link provides instructions for how to Login and complete an electronic filing. 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.

For paper filings, the original and 14 copies of such comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

All comments will be placed in the Commission's public files and will be available for inspection in the Commission's Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, during regular business hours. In addition, all comments may be viewed, printed, or downloaded remotely via the Internet through FERC's Homepage using the eLibrary link.

Conference Information

As noted above, upon evaluation of the comments requested herein, the Commission will hold a technical conference open to all interested persons. The technical conference will be held on September 28, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. (e.s.t.) in the Commission Meeting Room at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC.

There is no charge to attend the conference and no requirement to register in advance for the conference. The conference will be transcribed. Those interested in acquiring the transcript should contact Ace Reporters at (202) 347–3700 or (800) 336–6646. Transcripts will be placed in the public record ten days after the Commission receives them.

Capitol Connection offers the opportunity for remote listening and viewing of the conference. It is available for a fee, live over the Internet, by phone or via satellite. Persons interested in receiving the broadcast or who need information on making arrangements should contact David Reininger or Julia Morelli at Capitol Connection at (703) 993–3100 as soon as possible or visit the Capitol Connection Web site at *http://www.capitolconnection.org* and click on ''FERC.''

Interested parties are urged to watch for further notices providing more information on the conference. You may register online at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscriptions.asp* to be notified via email of new issuances and filings related to this docket. For additional information please contact John Kroeger at (202) 502–8177 or by e-mail at *john.kroeger@ferc.gov,* or Thomas Pinkston at (202) 502–6335 or by e-mail at *thomas.pinkston@ferc.gov.*

By direction of the Commission.

Linda Mitry,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4–1735 Filed 8–5–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7798–9]

Office of Research and Development; Ambient Air Monitoring Reference and Equivalent Methods: Designation of One New Reference Method for NO_2 and Three New Equivalent Methods for $PM_{2.5}$

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of the designation of one new reference method and three new equivalent methods for monitoring ambient air quality.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated, in accordance with 40 CFR part 53, one new reference method for measuring concentrations of NO_2, and three new equivalent methods for measuring concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ in ambient air.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Hunike, Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division (MD–D205–03), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711. Phone: (919) 541–3737, e-mail: *Hunike.Elizabeth@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with regulations at 40 CFR part 53, the EPA examines various methods for monitoring the concentrations of those ambient air pollutants for which the EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQSs), as set forth in 40 CFR part 50. Monitoring methods that are determined to meet specific requirements for adequacy are designated as either reference methods or equivalent methods (as applicable), thereby permitting their use under 40 CFR part 58 by States and other agencies for determining attainment of the NAAQSs. The EPA hereby announces the designation of one new reference method for measuring concentrations of NO_2 in ambient air and three new equivalent methods for measuring concentrations of particulate matter in ambient air. These designations are made under the provisions of 40 CFR part 53, as amended on July 18, 1997 (62 FR 38764).

The new reference method for NO_2 is an automated method (analyzer) that utilizes the measurement principle (gas phase chemiluminescence) and calibration procedure specified in appendix F of 40 CFR part 50. The newly designated method is described as follows:

RFNA–0804–152, ''SIR S.A. Model S–5012 Chemiluminescent Nitrogen Oxides Analyzer,'' operated with a full scale range of 0–500 ppb, at any temperature in the range of 20 °C to 30 °C, with the integration time set to 1 minute, with the ''initial zero'' disabled, and with a specified Teflon particulate filter installed in the sample inlet filter holder.

An application on behalf of the SIR S.A. Model S–5012 analyzer was received on January 12, 2004. The method is available commercially from Sistemas Instalaciones y Redes, S.A. (SIR S.A.), Avenida de la Industria, 3, 28760 Tres Cantos (Madrid), Spain.

The three new equivalent methods for $PM_{2.5}$ are manual monitoring methods that are based on particular, commercially available $PM_{2.5}$ samplers. The methods are identified as Class II equivalent methods, which means that they are based on an integrated, filtered air sample with gravimetric analysis, but with substantial deviation from the specifications for reference methods set forth in appendix L of 40 CFR part 50. In this case, each of the three new equivalent method samplers is very similar to a corresponding sampler that has been previously designated by the EPA as a reference method sampler for $PM_{2.5}$ (or PM_{10}). However, these newly designated equivalent method samplers use a specific, very sharp cut cyclone (VSCC™) as the principle particle size separation device rather than the WINS impactor used in the corresponding reference method sampler. The newly designated Class II equivalent methods are identified as follows:

EQPM–0804–153, ''Thermo Electron Corporation Model RAAS2.5–100 FEM'' $PM_{2.5}$ Ambient Air Sampler, configured with a BGI VSCC'' Very Sharp Cut Cyclone particle size separator and operated with software version 06.0B.00 configured for ''Single 2.5'' operation, for 24-hour continuous sample periods at a flow rate of 16.67 liters/minute, in accordance with the Model RAAS2.5–100 FEM Operator's Manual and VSCC'' supplemental manual, and in accordance with the requirements and sample collection filters specified in 40 CFR part 50, appendix L.

EQPM–0804–154 ''Thermo Electron Corporation Model RAAS2.5–200 FEM'' $PM_{2.5}$ Ambient Air Sampler, configured with a BGI VSCC'' Very Sharp Cut Cyclone particle size separator and operated with software version 06.0B.00, for 24-hour continuous sample periods at a flow rate of