

index system that establishes ceiling levels for such rates. The Commission bases the index system, found at 18 CFR 342.3, on the annual change in the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods (PPI-FG). This rule provides that pipelines should use PPI-FG minus 1 percent as the oil pricing index factor, 18 CFR 342.3(d)(2). However, on February 24, 2003, the Commission issued its Order on Remand of its Five-Year Review of Oil Pricing Index (Remand Order) in Docket Nos. RM00-11-000 and -001. In the Remand Order the Commission redetermined that the PPI-FG without the minus 1 percent is the appropriate oil pricing index factor for pipelines to use.¹ The regulations provide that the Commission will publish annually, an index figure reflecting the final change in the PPI-FG, after the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the final PPG-FG in May of each calendar year. The annual average PPI-FG index figure for 2002 was 138.9. The annual average PPI-FG index figure for 2003 was 143.3.²

Thus, the percent change (expressed as a decimal) in the annual average PPI-FG from 2002 to 2003 is positive .031677.³ Oil pipelines must multiply their July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004, index ceiling levels by positive 1.031677⁴ to compute their index ceiling levels for July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, in accordance with 18 CFR 342.3(d). For guidance in calculating the ceiling levels for each 12 month period beginning January 1, 1995,⁵ see Explorer Pipeline Company, 71 FERC 61,416 at n.6 (1995).

In addition to publishing the full text of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print this Notice via the Internet through FERC's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) and in FERC's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time)

¹ 102 FERC ¶ 61,195 at P 1 (2003).

² Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes the final figure in mid-May of each year. This figure is publicly available from the Division of Industrial Prices and Price Indexes of the BLS, at (202) 691-7705, and in print in August in Table 1 of the annual data supplement to the BLS publication *Producer Price Indexes* via the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ppi>. To obtain the BLS data, click on "Get Detailed PPI Statistics," and then under the heading "Most Requested Statistics" click on "Commodity Data." At the next screen, under the heading "Producer Price Index—Commodity," select the first box, "Finished goods—WPUSOP3000", then scroll all the way to the bottom of this screen and click on Retrieve data.

³ $[143.3 - 138.9] / 138.9 = 0.031677$

⁴ $1 + 0.031677 = 1.031677$

⁵ For a listing of all prior multipliers issued by the Commission, see the Commission's Web site, <http://www.ferc.gov>. The table of multipliers can be found under the headings "Oil" and "Index".

at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426. The full text of this Notice is available on FERC's home page at the eLibrary link. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field and follow other directions on the search page.

User assistance is available for eLibrary and other aspects of FERC's Web site during normal business hours. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-1200 Filed 5-21-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD04-6-000]

Notice of Availability of Consequence Assessment Methods for Incidents Involving Releases From Liquefied Natural Gas Carriers

May 14, 2004.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has contracted ABSG Consulting Inc. (ABSG) to research and review methodologies for modeling liquefied natural gas (LNG) spills on water. The final report, entitled *Consequence Assessment Methods for Incidents Involving Releases from Liquefied Natural Gas Carriers*, is available in PDF format from the FERC Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/indus-act.asp>). Copies of the study have also been mailed to interested parties and government agencies.

The report recommends methods for estimating: Spill rates; pool spread and vapor generation for unconfined LNG spills on water; thermal radiation from pool fires on water; and dispersion of flammable vapors. An overview of data relating to the effects of thermal radiation on people and structures is also included. Example calculations are included for spills from 1- and 5-meter-diameter hull breaches to examine the model sensitivities and to illustrate the various methods. The methods recommended by ABSG will be used by FERC staff to calculate site-specific flammable vapor and thermal radiation hazards in the National Environmental Policy Act review for each import

facility application before the Commission.

Any person wishing to comment on the study may do so. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Send an original and two copies of your comments to: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the LNG Engineering Branch, PJ-11.4.
- Reference Docket No. AD04-6-000 and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before May 28, 2004.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments on this report. See the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created by clicking on "Sign-up."

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-1201 Filed 5-21-04; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-2003-0073; FRL-7666-3]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Compliance Assessment/Certification Information (Renewal), EPA ICR Number 1427.07, OMB Control Number 2040-0110

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that an Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. This is a request to renew an existing approved collection. This ICR is scheduled to expire on 5/31/2004. Under OMB regulations, the Agency may continue to conduct or sponsor the collection of