

ACTION: Agency information collection extensions.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) is submitting an information collection package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for renewal under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The package requests a 3-year extension of its Security information collection (formerly known as Safeguards and Security), OMB Control Number 1910-1800. The package covers collections of information concerning the management and administration of DOE's Government-owned/contractor-operated facilities (GOCO's), offsite contractors, businesses and citizens. The information is used by Departmental management to exercise management oversight as to the implementation of applicable statutory and contractual requirements and obligations. The collection of this information is critical to ensure that the Government has sufficient information to judge the degree to which contractors meet contractual requirements; that public funds are being spent in the manner intended; and that fraud, waste, and abuse are immediately detected and eliminated. These collections provide information concerning the Department's security program. Typical information collected in this package pertains to material control and accountability, security incident investigations, and protection of unclassified and classified documents.

DATES: Comments regarding this information collection package should be submitted to the OMB Desk no later than February 6, 2003. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the OMB Desk Officer of your intention to do so as soon as possible. The Desk Officer may be telephoned at (202) 395-3087. (Also, please notify the DOE contact listed in this notice.)

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to DOE Desk Officer, Office Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan L. Frey, Director, Records Management Division, Office of Records and Business Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, IM-11/GTN Bldg, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290, (301) 903-3666, or E-mail susan.frey@hq.doe.gov.

(Also notify Brenda Scheel, Office of Security, SO-1.12/GTN Bldg, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290 (301) 903-4098.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The package contains: (1) *Title:* Security; (2) *Current OMB control Number:* 1910-1800; (3) *Type of Respondents:* DOE management and operating contractors, offsite contractors, businesses, and citizens; (4) *Estimated number of Responses:* 5,886; (5) *Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 179,452; (6) *Purpose:* This information is required by the Department to ensure that programmatic and administrative management requirements and resources concerning security are managed efficiently and effectively and to exercise management oversight of DOE contractors; (7) *Number of Collections:* This package contains 12 information and/or record-keeping requirements.

Statutory Authority: Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, of August 4, 1977.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 30, 2002.

Susan L. Frey,

Director, Records Management Division, Office of Records and Business Management, Officer of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-261 Filed 1-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Agency information collection extension.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) has submitted renewals for an additional three years for the information collection(s) listed at the end of this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under sections 3507(h)(1) and 3506(c) of the paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13).

Each entry contains the following information: (1) The collection number and title; (2) A summary of the collection of information, type of request (new, revision, extension, or reinstatement), response obligation (mandatory, voluntary, or required to obtain or retain benefits); (3) a description of the need and proposed use of the information, (4) a description of the likely respondents; and (5) an estimate of the total annual reporting burden (*i.e.*, the estimated number of

likely respondents times the proposed frequency of response per year times the average hours per response).

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before February 6, 2003. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments but find it difficult to do so within the time allowed by this notice, you should advise the OMB DOE Desk Officer listed below of your intention to do so as soon as possible. The OMB Desk Officer may be telephoned at (202) 395-7318. (Also, please notify the DOE contact listed below.)

ADDRESSES: Address comments to the DOE Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. (Comments should also be addressed to the Records Management Division, Office of the Chief Information Officer, at the addressee below.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collections submitted to OMB for review were:

(1) *Title:* Personal Property; (2) *Current OMB control Number:* 1910-1000. (3) *Type of Respondents:* DOE management and operating contractors and offsite contractors. (4) *Estimated Number of Responses:* 111; (5) *Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 1,880. (6) *Purpose:* This provides the Department with the information necessary for the management, control, reutilization, and disposal of government personal property. (7) *Number of Collections:* The package contains 3 information and/or recordkeeping requirements.

Statutory Authority: Sections 3507(h) (1) and 3506(c) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13).

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 30, 2002.

Susan L. Frey,

Director, Records Management Division, Office of Records and Business Management, Officer of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-262 Filed 1-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Policy Statement; Policy for Statistical Tables Based on Historical Electric Power Survey Information Collected Under a Pledge of Confidentiality

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Policy statement.

SUMMARY: The EIA has established a policy regarding the use of disclosure limitation methods for statistical tables derived from historical electric power survey information collected under a pledge of confidentiality. Disclosure limitation methods are used to ensure that sensitive table cell values are suppressed; *i.e.*, withheld from public release. A sensitive data cell value is one that, if publicly disseminated, may be used to closely estimate confidential information that an individual survey respondent reported to EIA.

Under this policy, EIA will use disclosure limitation methods on statistical tables based on aggregated historical electric power survey information collected under a pledge of confidentiality only if the information is currently collected under a pledge of confidentiality. (As of December 2002, electric power information collected under a pledge of confidentiality includes costs of fuels for unregulated plants, tested heat rates, fuel inventories, plant costs and expenses for unregulated plants, monthly electricity sales information reported for energy-only service, and latitude/longitude for electric power facilities.) For information not currently collected under a pledge of confidentiality, EIA will not use disclosure limitation methods for statistical tables derived from the historical electric power survey information previously collected under a pledge of confidentiality.

This policy applies to any information collected in an EIA electric power survey under a pledge of confidentiality during a survey period at least three years prior to the date of its proposed release in a statistical table. The three-year period includes the reporting year (the year for which information is currently being collected) and two prior years where information has been finalized. In accordance with applicable laws and regulations, EIA will continue to not publicly release survey forms collected under a pledge of confidentiality.

This policy is based on the need to provide additional statistical tabulations that will improve and broaden the understanding of the United States electric power industry by releasing additional statistical tabulations. These tables may present information at the national, State, and/or regional levels in various EIA information products. (EIA's electric power information is available on the web at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/>.)

DATES: This policy becomes effective on January 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Requests for additional information or questions about this policy should be directed to Dean Fennell. He may be contacted by FAX (202-287-1934), e-mail (Dean.Fennell@eia.doe.gov), or telephone (202-287-1744). These contact methods are recommended to expedite contact. His mailing address is Energy Information Administration, EI-53, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585-0650.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests should be directed to Mr. Fennell at the address listed above. EIA's electric power information is available on the web at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Discussion of Comments
- III. Current Actions

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the EIA to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer-term domestic demands.

The EIA conducts surveys to collect information about the electric power industry from companies and organizations involved in the generation, transmission, distribution, and sales of electric power. This survey information is disseminated in a variety of information products and electronic data files used by government and private sector policymakers and analysts.

On October 24, 2002, EIA issued a **Federal Register** notice (67 FR 65345) requesting public comments on a proposed policy regarding the use of disclosure limitation methods for statistical tables derived from historical electric power survey information collected under a pledge of confidentiality. A second notice was issued on November 4, 2002 (67 FR 67253) to correct a publication mistake in the date for submission of comments. In the October 24 notice, EIA discussed the reasons for the proposed policy as well as reasons for proposing it. In addition to publishing the notice, EIA

sent a copy of the notice to each of its over 6,000 electric power survey respondents.

The proposed policy was based on the need to provide additional statistical tabulations that will improve and broaden the understanding of the electric power industry. These statistical tables will provide electric power information at national, State, and/or regional levels. (An example of this is publishing national level fuel consumption information in EIA's Annual Energy Review, or publishing State or regional level information for fuel consumption, useful thermal output, or generation in reports such as EIA's Electric Power Monthly or Natural Gas Annual.)

II. Discussion of Comments

In response to the **Federal Register** notice and EIA's mailing of the notice to its survey respondents, EIA received 19 sets of comments. Most of the comments were from electric power companies and trade groups.

Of the comments received, nine were in favor of a policy of not using disclosure limitation methods on statistical tables based on historical electric power survey information, nine objected to the proposal, and one commenter did not take a position. After analyzing the comments, EIA decided to propose using disclosure limitation methods on statistical tables based on historical electric power survey information collected under a pledge of confidentiality only if the survey information is currently collected under a pledge of confidentiality. If the historical survey information was collected under a pledge of confidentiality but is not currently collected under such a pledge, EIA will not use disclosure limitation methods on statistical tables based on the aggregated historical information.

The decision is based on the fact that for information not currently collected under a pledge of confidentiality, the public has access to the most recent information in individually-identifiable form. Therefore, the release of statistical tables not subjected to disclosure limitation methods for historical survey information previously collected under a pledge of confidentiality should not cause substantial competitive harm to the position of any survey respondent. Examples of information meeting this criteria include generation and fuel consumption information collected under a pledge of confidentiality prior to 1999 on the Form EIA-867, but the generation and fuel consumption information are currently collected with no pledge of confidentiality.

Following is a summary of the major supporting and opposing arguments received in response to EIA's proposed policy.

General Concerns—Arguments for Release of Aggregated Information Collected Under a Pledge of Confidentiality

Nine responders to the October 24, 2002, **Federal Register** notice generally supported EIA's approach to not using disclosure limitation methods before disseminating information collected under a pledge of confidentiality at an aggregate level in statistical tables after a three-year period. They stated that the release of such information at least three years after collection and aggregated at the State, regional, or national level will adequately safeguard the competitive position of any survey respondent. If an affected survey respondent disagrees, the respondent has the option to request confidential treatment through the DOE's Office of Hearings and Appeals or in court. Further, some stated that disseminating historically confidential information at the State level is especially important as States move into an era characterized by the need for portfolio management of power supply, demand, and related factors. Others believe that the release of aggregated information after a three-year period expands the historical information available and has the potential to benefit information users, researchers, and policymakers.

Other persons argued that the industry has failed to document any specific harm that will arise from the release of EIA aggregated survey information despite the fact that competition has existed in the industry for several years. They also stated that much of the information is already available, that the statistical tables will not have any competitive impact by the time they are released by EIA, and that public policy goals depend on this information.

Some supporters of the release of aggregated information after three years believe that both EIA's enabling statute and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) mandate that EIA disseminates its information. They state that the FOIA contains nine exemptions from public disclosure, and only Exemption 4 (which protects against release of confidential commercial or financial information), potentially relates to the type of information collected on EIA's electric power surveys. In fact, one commenter stated that the purpose of FOIA is to promote disclosure, not to justify secrecy.

Another commenter in favor of the release of historical information stated that with the movement toward a more competitive market, it should be clear to all that energy markets can function best in the presence of wide access to information.

Also in support of the proposed policy, many commenters to previous EIA **Federal Register** notices published March 13, 2001 (Vol. 66, No. 49) who opposed the release of individually-reported information believed that EIA could fulfill its statutory duties without disclosure of individual plant level information by disseminating the information in an aggregated form. In addition, several supported a delay in the disclosure of sensitive information to protect against competitive harm.

General Concerns—Arguments Against Release of Aggregated Information Collected Under A Pledge of Confidentiality

Nine responders to the October 24, 2002, **Federal Register** notice opposed EIA's proposal to release information collected under a pledge of confidentiality at an aggregate level after a three-year period. They believe that disclosure even at an aggregate level of competitively sensitive information will harm respondents, the electricity market, and the consumer. In particular, some believe their entities hold market share in certain States and regions. If the number of entities included in the aggregate is small, they believe that their information could be easily discerned. Others understood that the confidential information would remain proprietary even when disseminated at aggregate levels. They stated that EIA is changing its policy on confidentiality.

Some had an issue with the three-year time period. Their concern is that much of the information provided in the responses to the EIA surveys would potentially change little over time. Thus, if the number of entities included in a particular aggregate is small, individually reported information could be discerned. If the information changes little over time, competitive harm could occur with respect to fuel purchase prices and plant operating costs.

One commenter opposed the proposal to release aggregate information collected under a pledge of confidentiality after three years stating that the proposal is too broad and unfounded. The person also stated that the new proposal violates the expectations of companies that have submitted the information in reliance on confidentiality assurances. The person went on to say that the mere passage of time does not ensure that information

treated as confidential because of commercial and security concerns no longer need to be treated as confidential. The commenter believes that the proposal is a generalization, which can not be made for all categories of information or for all facilities and companies. Also, companies have provided the information in reliance on EIA assurances, which should not now be withdrawn after the information has been submitted.

EIA's Response to Comments

EIA finds that the comments on the issue are thoughtful and reflect the nature of the tradeoff in ensuring information is available for monitoring and analyzing the electric power industry and markets while at the same time ensuring that information collected under a pledge of confidentiality in EIA's electric power surveys is not released in statistical tables in such a way as to cause potential substantial competitive harm to the survey respondents.

EIA's final policy is to discontinue the use of disclosure limitation methods such as suppression and complimentary suppression for statistical tables derived from historical electric power survey information collected under a pledge of confidentiality only if the information is not currently collected under a pledge of confidentiality. This decision is based on the need to provide additional tabulations that will improve and broaden the understanding of the electric power industry by releasing more aggregated information (State, regional, or national level) while using disclosure limitation methods to ensure the confidentiality of information currently collected under a pledge of confidentiality. The potential disclosure of data that were confidential and older than three years will not have a major impact on the competitiveness of the respondents, as their current data are no longer confidential.

III. Current Actions

The EIA is establishing a policy regarding the use of disclosure limitation methods for information in statistical tables derived from historical electric power survey information collected under a pledge of confidentiality. (Disclosure limitation methods are used to ensure that sensitive table cell values are suppressed; *i.e.*, withheld from public release.) Under this policy, disclosure limitation methods will be used on statistical tables based on aggregated historical electric power survey information collected under a pledge of confidentiality only if the information is

currently collected under a pledge of confidentiality. (As of December 2002, electric power survey information collected under a pledge of confidentiality includes costs of fuels for unregulated plants, tested heat rates, fuel inventories, plant costs and expenses for unregulated plants, monthly electricity sales information reported for energy-only service, and latitude/longitude for electric power facilities.) If the survey information is not currently collected under a pledge of confidentiality, EIA will not use disclosure limitation methods for statistical tables derived from the historical electric power survey information.

This policy would apply to any information collected in an EIA electric power survey under a pledge of confidentiality during a survey period at least three years prior to the date of its proposed release in a statistical table. The three-year period includes the reporting year (the year for which information is currently being collected) and two prior years where information have been finalized. In accordance with applicable laws and regulations, EIA will not publicly release survey forms collected under a pledge of confidentiality.

Statutory Authority: Section 52 of the Federal Energy Administration Act (Pub. L. No. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 790a).

Issued in Washington, DC, December 31, 2002.

Guy F. Caruso,

Administrator, Energy Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-259 Filed 1-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP02-340-003]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

December 31, 2002.

Take notice that on December 24, 2002, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets, with an effective date of December 24, 2002:

First Revised Sheet No. 192
First Revised Sheet No. 192 A
First Revised Sheet No. 192B
First Revised Sheet No. 192C

ANR states that the revised tariff sheets are being filed in compliance with the Commission's November 26,

2002 Order in the above-referenced docket in regards to MDQ reductions. ANR Pipeline Company, 101 FERC 61,246 (2002).

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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 proceedings. This filing is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For Assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link.

Protest Date: January 6, 2003.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-239 Filed 1-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-301-065]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Negotiated Rate Filing

December 31, 2002.

Take notice that on December 23, 2002, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) tendered for filing and approval Amendments to two Service Agreements between ANR and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, which revise the MDQ under such Agreements. ANR requests that the Commission accept and approve the agreements to be effective January 1, 2003.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections

385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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 proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. This filing is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For Assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. Comments, protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link.

Intervention Date: January 6, 2003.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-251 Filed 1-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP96-200-091]

CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Negotiated Rates

December 31, 2002.

Take notice that on December 27, 2002, CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company (CEGT, formerly Reliant Energy Gas Transmission Company) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Fifth Revised Volume No. 1, First Revised Sheet No. 651, to be effective January 1, 2003.

CEGT states that the purpose of this filing is to describe the provisions of a revised negotiated rate transaction between CEGT and TPS Dell, L.L.C. Tariff sheets describing the original negotiated rate transaction (i.e., the transaction being amended by CEGT's filing) were accepted by the Commission in a letter order dated September 27, 2002, in Docket No. RP96-200-085.