

abandoning any jurisdictional facility or service. Under the NGPA interstate and intrastate pipelines must also obtain authorization for certain transportation arrangements.

The information collected is necessary to certificate interstate pipelines engaged in the transportation and sale of natural gas, and the construction, acquisition, and operation of facilities to be used in those activities, to authorize the abandonment of facilities and services and to authorize certain NGPA transactions. If a certificate is granted, the natural gas company can construct, acquire, or operate facilities plus engage in interstate transportation or sale of natural gas. Conversely, approval of an abandonment application permits the

pipeline to cease service and/or discontinue the operation of such facilities. Authorization under NGPA section 311(a) allows the interstate or intrastate pipeline applicants to render certain transportation services.

The data required to be submitted consists of identification of the company and responsible officials, factors considered in the location of the facilities and the impact on the area for environmental considerations. Also to be submitted are flow diagrams showing design capacity of engineering design verification and safety determination, and gas reserves data for appraisal of the feasibility of the project. Market data presenting the economic basis for the proposed action are included when appropriate as cost of the proposed

facilities, plans for refinancing, and estimated revenues and expenses related to the proposed facility for financial and accounting evaluation. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR parts 157.5-.11; 157.13-.20; 157.22; 157.53; 157.201-.209; 157.211; 157.214-.218; 284.8; 284.11; 284.126; 284.221; 284.223-.224; 284.227.

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	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)×(2)×(3)
76	10.2	271.2	*210,234

*Rounded off.

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 210,234 hours/2,080 hours per year × \$117,041 per year = \$11,829,807. The cost per respondent is equal to \$155,655.

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC03-568-000, FERC-568]

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

September 29, 2003.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c) (2) (a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c) (2) (A), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specifics of the information collection described below.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by December 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from Michael Miller, Office of the Executive Director, ED-30, 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 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 and refer to Docket No. IC03-568-000.

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 acknowledgment 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-568 "Well Category Determinations" (OMB Control No. 1902-0112) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of section 503 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA), 15 U.S.C. 3413. In Order No. 616, (July 14, 2000) (65 FR 45859) the Commission reinstated provisions for making well category determinations under section 503 of the Natural Gas Policy Act for certain categories of high cost gas.

When a determination is made, a natural gas producer can claim tax

credits as provided for under Section 29 of the Internal Revenue Code (Section 29 tax credits). Section 29 as amended by the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990, allows taxpayers to claim a tax credit for certain qualified fuels which (1) are produced from wells drilled after December 31, 1979, and before January 1, 1993, and (2) sold before January 1, 2003. The qualified fuels include high cost gas as defined in NGPA section 107(c)(2)-(4) (gas produced from geopressured brine, coal seams and Devonian shale), as well as some gas the Commission defined as tight formation gas pursuant to NGPA section 107(c)(5). In 1999, the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in *True Oil Co. v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue (True Oil)* (170 F.3d 1294)(10th Cir. 1999), held that, in order to obtain the tax credit, there must be a formal determination under the procedures provided for by section 503 of the Natural Gas Policy Act. Section 503 of the NGPA, set forth procedures used for determining whether gas qualified as section 107(c) "high-cost natural gas." Under that section the agency having regulatory jurisdiction with respect to the production of natural gas in question (jurisdictional agency) makes the initial determination, and submits it to the Commission. The Commission can affirm, reverse, remand, make a preliminary finding either on, or simply takes no action regarding the agency's determination. If the Commission takes no action within 45 days after receipt of the agency's determination, the determination is final. Judicial review is available under Section 503 only if the Commission remands or reverses the determination. In Order No. 616, the Commission limited its actions to reviewing determinations by

jurisdictional agencies for qualifying recompletions in already designated tight formations. Well determinations for recompletions in coal seams and Devonian shale are also accepted. The Commission estimated there are probably at least 4,131 recompletions that were performed during the years 2000-2003 for which a determination may be sought under the Commission's regulations. A natural gas producer files an application (FERC Form 121) for a determination. In addition to the application, the applicant will also submit supporting documentation that includes the following: A completion report which illustrates the type of natural gas production treatment (*i.e.* perforation, acidization, fracturing etc.); logs defining the coal seams; or superimposed indications of the shale base line using gamma rays; or a map that identifies the geographic location of the well and the geographic location of post January 1, 1993 recompletions' completion location in the designated tight formation; and/or a location plat identifying the geographic location of the well and a list of tracts of land that comprise designated tight formations and an affidavit. FERC-568 covers the reporting requirements for this supporting documentation. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 270.

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	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)×(2)×(3)
4,131	1	6.01	24,786

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 24,786 hours / 2,080 hours per year × \$117,041 per year = \$ 1,394,701. The cost per respondent is equal to \$ 338.

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. 03-25225 Filed 10-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[IC03-577-000 FERC-577]

Commission Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

September 29, 2003.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 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 by December 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be

obtained from Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments on the proposed collection of information may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those parties filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. 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 and should refer to Docket No. IC03-577-000.

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 acknowledgment 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-577, "Gas Pipeline Certificates: Environmental Impact Statement" (OMB No. 1902-0128) is a filing requirement of the environmental assessment of pipeline and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility construction projects. The filing collects information from all Natural Gas Act (NGA) jurisdictional pipeline companies as well as companies whose

Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) are reviewed by the Commission.

The information collected under FERC-577 is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of section 102 (2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Pub. L. 91-190) (42 U.S.C. 4332). NEPA requires that all Federal agencies must include in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of human environment, a detailed statement on: the environmental impact on the proposed actions; any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented; alternatives to the proposed action; the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long term productivity; and any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented. The Commission uses the pipeline's data to evaluate the environmental aspects of construction proposals and may be used in the Commission staff's independent preparation of Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements. The staff examines and projects potential effects on soils, geology, water resources, land use, recreation, aesthetics, air and noise quality, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources and pipeline and liquefied natural gas safety. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR parts 2; 157; 284; 375 and 380.

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	Annual responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)×(2)×(3)
76	16.57	185.2	* 233,226

* Detail may not calculate to totals because of rounding.

Estimated Burden: 233,226 total burden hours, 76 respondents, 1,259 responses annually, and 185.2 hours per response (average).

Estimated cost burden to respondents is \$13,123,5620; (i.e., 233,226 hours divided by 2,080 hours per full time employee per year multiplied by \$117,041 per year equals

\$13,123,560)(rounded off). The cost per respondent is equal to \$172,678.

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