

Title: Notice Inviting Proposals for Participation in the Experimental Sites Initiative.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 500 Burden Hours: 2,500.

Abstract: With this notice, the Secretary invites proposals to reinvent the administration of Federal student assistance programs through the use of the experimental sites authority (Section 487A(b)) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The program is intended to encourage institutions to develop innovative strategies to improve Title IV program administration.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO IMG Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at (202) 708-9266 or via his internet address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 01-19111 Filed 7-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the National Nuclear Security Administration Advisory Committee (NNSA AC). The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 10(a)(2) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATE: Wednesday, August 15, 2001, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LOCATION: Sandia National Laboratory, 1515 Eubank SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Leonard (202-586-5555), Staff Director of NNSA AC.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Committee: To provide the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration with advice and recommendations on matters of technology, policy, and operations that lie within the mission and responsibilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Purpose of the Meeting: To discuss national security research, development, and policy programs.

Meeting Agenda: The basic agenda of the meeting is planned as follows: two hour discussion on work of Defense Programs Subcommittee, two hour discussion on work of Nonproliferation Subcommittee, two hour discussion of Committee's future plans. Extra time has been allotted for possible briefings.

Closed Meeting: In the interest of national security, the meeting will be closed to the public, pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App 2 section 10(d), and the Federal Advisory Committee Management Regulation, 41 CFR 101-6.1023, "Procedures for Closing an Advisory Committee Meeting", which incorporate by reference the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b, which, at sections 552b (c)(1) and (c)(3) permits closure of meetings where restricted data or other classified matters are discussed.

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting will be recorded and classified accordingly.

Issued at Washington, D.C. on July 26, 2001.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-19127 Filed 7-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC01-721-000, FERC-721]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

July 26, 2001.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Request for Office of Management and Budget emergency processing of proposed

information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3507(j)(1) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), and 5 CFR 1320.13 of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is providing notice of its request to OMB for emergency processing of a proposed collection of information in connection with the "Order Imposing Reporting Requirement on Natural Gas Sales to California Market," issued in Docket No. RM01-9-000. The Commission is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: The Commission and OMB must receive comments on or before August 1, 2001. Because the Commission has requested OMB to process the proposed collection of information in Docket No. IC01-721-000 on an emergency basis, comments on this collection of information should be filed with OMB, attention FERC Desk Officer, as soon as possible. The Commission is requesting that OMB make a determination on this information collection requirement by August 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: FERC-721 responses should be filed with the Office of the Secretary (and should refer to Docket No. IC01-721-000), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Howe, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1274; Thomas Brownfield, Office of Markets Tariffs and Rates, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0666.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This reporting requirement is intended to provide the Commission with the necessary information to determine what action if any, it should take within its jurisdiction, with respect to the price of natural gas sold in the California market. Specifically, the Commission wants to understand better how the California natural gas market functions in light of the fact that the price of natural gas in the California market has, for substantial periods been higher than the prices in other markets and trading hubs throughout the country. The Commission is also concerned about the operation of the California natural gas market since gas-fired generators in California help to establish the market

clearing price for electric generation pursuant to the bidding system used by the California Independent System Operator. The Commission intends to collect information on the volumes, and prices of sales to the California market including transportation rates, the daily operational capacity of pipelines to, and in the California market, and the actual volumes flowing to, and in California, plus gas sales and transportation requirements of local distribution companies.

The information is to assist the Commission in carrying out its regulatory responsibilities. First, it will help the Commission determine what part of the problem, if any, is within the scope of its jurisdiction. The information proposed to be collected will give the Commission an accurate picture of overall average gas costs being incurred by all purchasers of natural gas moving into the California market. The information to be collected will also enable the Commission to determine the extent to which the cost of interstate transportation, which is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, affects the price for the gas commodity at the California border.

The Commission's need for this information is enhanced by the relationship of natural gas prices and the price for electric power. On June 19, 2001, the Commission issued an order involving price mitigation for the California power markets. In the mitigation plan, electric generators' price bids during reserve emergencies must reflect the marginal cost of obtaining natural gas used for generation. That number is derived by using an average of the midpoint of the monthly bid-week prices at certain reported California natural gas market price points. Thus, the price for electric power would be dependent, to some extent on the price of natural gas at certain California market points.

Accordingly, because the Commission requires the information as soon as

possible, the Commission will require submission of the information on a monthly basis, to be submitted 30 days after the end of each month, for the six months commencing August 1, 2001 and ending January 31, 2002. The first report will be due October 1, 2001. The Commission in a separate action will request OMB approval to extend the reporting period to September 30, 2002, to coincide with the termination of the Commission's June 19, 2001 California electric power mitigation order.

The information will enable the Commission and its staff to carry out their regulatory responsibilities of determining the extent to which the high price of natural gas involves a matter over which the Commission has jurisdiction under the Natural Gas Act and what actions if any, the Commission should take within its jurisdiction.

Background

On May 18, 2001, the Commission issued an Order in Docket No. RM01-09-000 proposing reporting requirements for natural gas sales to and in the California market and requested comments on this proposal. The reporting requirements are in response to the fact, prices of natural gas in California rose dramatically and exceeded the increases in other markets. Several complaints have requested the Commission to take various actions as identified in the Order. In response to these complaints the Commission needs to determine what part of the problem, if any is within the scope of its jurisdiction and what actions within that jurisdiction would be appropriate. The information provided so far by complainant and intervening parties has not been adequate to make these determinations.

The Commission's statutory obligations contained in the Natural Gas Act are to regulate the transportation of natural gas by interstate pipelines, and Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) also authorizes the Commission to issue

certificates for the construction of new interstate pipelines. The Commission also has jurisdiction to regulate sales for resale of domestic gas by pipelines, LDCs, and their affiliates. These obligations authorize the Commission to ensure that the rates, terms and conditions of service for natural gas pipeline companies within the Commission's jurisdiction are just and reasonable. To enable the Commission to fulfill this duty, the NGA authorizes the Commission to conduct investigations of, and collect information. If after the investigation, the Commission is of the opinion that rates within its jurisdiction are "unjust and unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory or unduly preferential," the Commission is authorized to determine and prescribe just and reasonable rates. The NGA also provides the Commission with the ability to consider the reasonableness of rates through settlement conferences or hearings.

Information Collection Statement

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.10 require OMB to approve certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements (collections of information) imposed by a federal agency. Upon approval of a collection of information, OMB will assign an OMB control number and an expiration date.

The proposed information collection request will be done under a temporary data collection, FERC-721, "Reporting of Natural Gas Sales to the California Market" (OMB Control No. to be assigned). The respondents will be natural gas pipelines, marketers and local distribution companies. Responses to the information collection request will be mandatory.

Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
89	*534	208	19,847

* Initial Reports: 178 Hours Per Respondent for data collection=15,842 hours 30 hours per respondent for utilizing Information technology=2,670 hours. Subsequent reports: 3 hrs. per respondent=1,335 hours.

Estimated cost burdens to respondents: The Commission estimates that it will cost each respondent \$25,096 to respond to this information collection request for a total cost of \$2,2334,570 (19,857 ÷ 2,080 hours × \$117,041).

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 professionals 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.

For copies of the OMB submission, contact Michael Miller at (202) 208-1415. Interested persons may send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect on the proposed information collection, including suggestions for reductions of burden, to the Desk Officer FERC, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202 NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, phone (202) 395-7318 or by fax at (202) 395-7285. A copy of any comments filed with OMB should also be sent to Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Michael Miller may also be reached by fax at (202) 208-4225, and by e-mail at mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

Document Availability

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission also provides interested persons an opportunity to inspect or copy contents of this document during normal business hours

in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426. Additionally, comments may be viewed and printed remotely via the Internet through FERC's home page, www.ferc.gov, and in FERC's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS) provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission from November 14, 1994, to the present. CIPS can be accessed via the Internet through FERC's Home Page, www.ferc.gov and using the CIPS link or the Energy Information Online icon. Documents will be available on CIPS in ASCII and Word Perfect 6.1. User assistance is available at (202) 208-0874 or by E-mail to cips.master@ferc.fed.us.

This document is also available through the Commission's Records and Information Management System (RIMS), an electronic storage and retrieval system of documents submitted to and issued by the Commission after November 16, 1981. Documents from November 1995 to the present can be viewed and printed. RIMS is available in the Public Reference Room or remotely via Internet through FERC's Homepage using the RIMS link or the Energy Information Online icon. User assistance is available at 202-208-2222, or by E-mail to rims.master@ferc.fed.us.

Finally, the complete text on diskette in Word perfect format may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, RVJ International, Inc. located in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-19109 Filed 7-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. ER01-1315-000 and ER01-1315-001]

AES Ironwood, LLC; Notice of Issuance of Order

July 26, 2001.

AES Ironwood, LLC (AES Ironwood) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which AES Ironwood will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions at market-based rates. AES Ironwood also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In

particular, AES Ironwood requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by AES Ironwood.

On June 5, 2001, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Corporate Applications, Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by AES Ironwood should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214).

Absent a request to be heard in opposition within this period, AES Ironwood is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, indorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of AES Ironwood and compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of AES Ironwood's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is August 27, 2001.

Copies of the full text of the Order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The Order may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket#" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). Comments, protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site under the "e-Filing" link.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-19131 Filed 7-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P