

"International Price Program—U.S. Export Price Indexes".

A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before February 23, 1998.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate 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;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Karin G. Kurz, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3255, 2 Massachusetts

Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212. Ms. Kurz can be reached on 202-606-7628 (this is not a toll free number).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The U.S. Export Price Indexes, produced continuously by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' International Price Program (IPP) since 1971, measure price change over time for all categories of exported products, as well as many services. The Office of Management and Budget has listed the Export Price Indexes as a major economic indicator since 1982.

The indexes are widely used in both the public and private sectors. The primary public sector use is deflation of the U.S. Trade statistics and the Gross Domestic Product; the indexes also are used in formulating U.S. trade policy and in trade negotiations with other countries. In the private sector, uses of the Export Price Indexes include market analysis, inflation forecasting, contract escalation, and replacement cost accounting.

The International Price Program indexes are viewed as a sensitive indicator of the economic environment. The Department of Commerce uses the monthly statistics to produce monthly and quarterly estimates of inflation-adjusted trade flows. Without continuation of data collection, it would be extremely difficult to construct accurate estimates of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. In addition, Federal policy-makers in the Department of the Treasury, the Council of Economic

Advisors, and the Federal Reserve Board utilize these statistics on a regular basis to improve these agencies' formulation and evaluation of monetary and fiscal policy, and evaluation of the general business environment.

##### II. Current Actions

The IPP continues to modernize data collection and processing to permit more timely release of its indexes and to reduce reporter burden. The IPP is using the telephone rather than personal visits for new item initiation in limited situations. We believe that initiation by telephone reduces reporting burden with no loss in response. Other potential initiation techniques to reduce burden being reviewed includes less frequent sampling of more stable item areas, use of broader item areas in certain cases, and retention of items initiated in previous samples. To reduce the time required for processing new items, direct entry of initiation data from the field will be tested. Also, for repricing, the use of fax telephone lines to permit direct collection and entry into our database is being considered. In addition, use of the Internet for monthly repricing is being reviewed, contingent upon the resolution of questions relating to the security of the data.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Title:* International Price Program/U.S. Export Product Information.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0025.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Average time per response (hours)	Estimated total burden (hours)
Form 2894B .....	1613	Annually .....	1,613	.75	1,210
Form 3008B .....	1613	Annually .....	1,613	.25	403.25
Form 3007D .....	3235	Monthly, quarterly .....	38,540	.53	20,426.2
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>4848</b>	.....	<b>41,766</b>	.....	<b>22,039</b>

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$0.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 18th day of December, 1997.

**W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,**

Chief, Division of Management Systems,  
Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[FR Doc. 97-33564 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

##### Mine Safety and Health Administration

##### Fee Adjustments for Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of Mining Products

**AGENCY:** Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of fee adjustments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice revises MSHA's user fees for testing, evaluation, and approval of certain products manufactured for use in underground mines. These fees are based on fiscal

year 1997 data and reflect changes in approval processing operations as well as costs incurred to process approval actions.

**DATES:** These fee schedules are effective from January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998. Approval applications postmarked before January 1, 1998 will be chargeable under the fee schedules as published on December 27, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven J. Luzik, Chief, Approval and Certification Center, R.R. 1, Box 251, Triadelphia, West Virginia 26059, (304) 547-2029 or (304) 547-0400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In general, MSHA has computed the revised fees based on the cost to the government to provide testing, evaluation, and approval of products manufactured for use in underground mines. On May 8, 1987 (52 FR 17506), MSHA published a final rule, 30 CFR Part 5—Fees for Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of Mining Products, which established the specific procedures for fee calculation, administration, and revisions. This revised fee schedule is established in accordance with the procedures of that rule.

For a majority of the services provided by A&CC, fees are charged on

an hourly basis. The hourly rates are recalculated each year and published in the **Federal Register**. This calculation involves an assessment of the direct and indirect costs associated with the services performed. Direct costs are based on current compensation and benefit costs for technical and support personnel directly involved in providing the services. Indirect costs are based on a proportionate share of the cost of activities which support the approval service, including management and administration of the A&CC, facility operating costs and amortization and depreciation of facilities and equipment. Indirect costs have been applied uniformly in computing the hourly rates for the various services provided.

Direct costs, however, have been separately computed for each product approval program. This has resulted in the inclusion of over 100 different fee categories being published in the annual **Federal Register** notice. The intent of this breakdown has been to establish hourly rates which reflect as accurately as possible the actual cost of performing services by product type.

Experience has shown that since 1987, the year in which 30 CFR Part 5 was promulgated, there has been a

relatively small range of difference in the separately computed direct costs for each product approval program. The result has been the annual publication of an unnecessarily complicated listing of separate hourly rates with relatively little variation. This has undoubtedly created confusion and frustration for those mining product manufacturers who submit requests for A&CC services under more than one product category.

A&CC is simplifying the computation of direct costs for 1998 so as to produce a uniform hourly rate across all of the product approval categories. This has been accomplished by simply calculating a weighted average direct cost for all the services provided by A&CC in the processing of requests for testing, evaluation and approval of mining products. The result is a single hourly rate which is now uniformly applied regardless of product type.

Programs that were previously administered using a flat rate billing convention will remain in the schedule as such. See the schedule for the appropriate flat/hourly rates.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

**J. Davitt McAteer,**

*Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.*

#### FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1998

[(Based on FY 1997 data)]

Action Title	Hourly Rate	Flat Rate
Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of all products .....	\$59	.....
30 CFR PART 15—EXPLOSIVES		
12 Approval Evaluation <sup>1</sup> .....	59	.....
Permissibility Tests for Explosives:		
Weigh-in .....		462
Physical Exam: First size .....		325
Chemical Analysis .....		1,977
Air Gap—Minimum Product Firing Temperature .....		460
Air Gap—Room Temperature .....		352
Pendulum Friction Test .....		163
Detonation Rate .....		352
Gallery Test 7 .....		7,436
Gallery Test 8 .....		5,533
Toxic Gases (Large Chamber) .....		805
Permissibility Tests for Sheathed Explosives:		
Physical Examination .....		128
Chemical Analysis .....		1,044
Gallery Test 9 .....		1,944
Gallery Test 10 .....		1,944
Gallery Test 11 .....		1,944
Gallery Test 12 .....		1,944
Drop Test .....		648
Temperature Effects/Detonation .....		672
Toxic Gases .....		580
14 Approval Extension .....	59	.....
15 Statement of Test and Evaluation (ST&E) .....		54
17 Statement of Test and Evaluation (ST&E) Extension .....		54
20 Stamped Revision Acceptance (SRA) <sup>2</sup> .....		403
23 Field Approval .....		103
29 Dust Collector Approval with Cert. of Performance .....		297
40 Stamped Notification Acceptance Program (SNAP) .....		443
40 Stamped Notification Acceptance Program (SNAP) ST&E .....		33
47 Permit—Extension of Time .....		276
52 Mine Wide Monitoring System (MWMS) Barrier Classification .....		87

## FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1998—Continued

[(Based on FY 1997 data)]

Action Title	Hourly Rate	Flat Rate
00 Retesting for Approval as a Result of Post-Approval Product Audit <sup>3</sup> .....	.....	.....

<sup>1</sup> Full approval fee consists of evaluation cost plus applicable test costs.<sup>2</sup> Fee covers SRA application accompanied by up to five documents.<sup>3</sup> Fee based upon the approval schedule in effect at the time of retest.

**Note:** When testing and evaluation are required at locations other than MSHA's premises, the applicant shall reimburse MSHA for traveling, subsistence, and incidental expenses of MSHA's representation in accordance with standardized government travel regulations. This reimbursement is in addition to the fees charged for evaluation and testing.

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BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 50-354

**Atlantic City Electric Company (Hope Creek Generating Station); Order Approving Application Regarding Merger Agreement Between Atlantic Energy, Inc. (Parent of Atlantic City Electric Company) and Delmarva Power and Light Company**

### I

Atlantic City Electric Company (ACE) and Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) are co-holders of Facility Operating License No. NPF-57, issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) pursuant to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR Part 50) for operation of the Hope Creek Generating Station (Hope Creek). Under the license, PSE&G is authorized to possess, use, and operate the facility, and ACE is authorized to possess the facility. Hope Creek is located in Salem County, New Jersey.

### II

By application filed by ACE under cover of a letter dated April 30, 1997, from John H. O'Neill, Jr., of Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge, attorney for ACE, supplemented by letter dated November 7, 1997, ACE requested the Commission's approval, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, of the indirect transfer of the license, to the extent held by ACE, that would result from the consummation of a merger agreement between Atlantic Energy, Inc. (parent of ACE) and Delmarva Power and Light Company (DP&L). Under the merger agreement, Atlantic Energy, Inc. and DP&L would form a new holding company, Conectiv, Inc., under which ACE and DP&L would become wholly owned subsidiaries. No direct transfer of the license would occur. PSE&G is not involved in the merger.

A Notice of Consideration of Approval of Application Regarding Proposed Corporate Restructuring was published in the **Federal Register** on December 8, 1997 (62 FR 64600), and an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the **Federal Register** on December 8, 1997 (62 FR 64603).

Under 10 CFR 50.80, no license shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission gives its consent in writing. Upon review of the information submitted in the letter and application of April 30, 1997, and supplement dated November 7, 1997, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed merger of Atlantic Energy, Inc. and DP&L will not affect the qualifications of ACE as a holder of the license, and that the transfer of control of the license for Hope Creek, to the extent effected by the proposed merger, is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission, subject to the conditions stated herein. These findings are supported by a safety evaluation dated December 18, 1997.

### III

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 161b, 161i, 161o, and 184 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 USC §§ 2201(b), 2201(i), 2201(o), and 2234, and 10 CFR 50.80, it is hereby ordered that the Commission approves the application regarding the proposed merger of Atlantic Energy, Inc. and DP&L subject to the following conditions: (1) ACE shall provide the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation a copy of any application, at the time it is filed, to transfer (excluding grants of security interests or liens) from ACE to its proposed parent or to any other affiliated company, facilities for the production, transmission, or distribution of electric energy having a depreciated book value exceeding 10 percent (10%) of ACE's consolidated net utility plant, as recorded on ACE's books of account; and (2) should the merger of Atlantic Energy, Inc. and

DP&L, as described herein, not be completed by December 31, 1998, this Order shall become null and void, provided, however, on application and for good cause shown, such date is extended.

This Order is effective upon issuance.

### IV

By January 23, 1998, any person adversely affected by this Order may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the Order. Any person requesting a hearing shall set forth with particularity how that interest is adversely affected by this Order and shall address the criteria set forth in 10 CFR 2.714(d).

If a hearing is to be held, the Commission will issue an order designating the time and place of such hearing.

The issue to be considered at any such hearing shall be whether this Order should be sustained.

Any request for a hearing must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC by the above date. Copies should be also sent to the Office of the General Counsel and to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to John H. O'Neill, Jr., Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge, 2300 N Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20037, attorney for ACE.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application filed by ACE under cover of a letter dated April 30, 1997, from John H. O'Neill, Jr., of Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge, as supplemented by a letter dated November 7, 1997, and the safety evaluation dated December 18, 1997, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room