

[FR Doc. 98-19370 Filed 7-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Publication Activities

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE

ACTION: Notice of discontinuation of publications.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is advising the public that it intends to cease publication of two reports in the electric power publication series.

DATES: Comments may be submitted in writing on or before September 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to John G. Colligan, EI-531, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20585-0650, (202) 426-1174, e-mail jcolliga@eia.doe.gov, and fax (202) 426-1311.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to John Colligan at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91), the EIA is obliged to carry out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program. As part of this program, EIA collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates data and information related to energy resource reserves, production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs.

II. Current Actions

The EIA intends to discontinue the publication of following two reports: *Financial Statistics of Major U.S. Investor-Owned Electric Utilities*—DOE/EIA-0437(yr)/1 and *U.S. Electric Utility Demand-Side Management*—DOE/EIA-0589(yr).

The final issue of the *Financial Statistics of Major U.S. Investor-Owned*

Electric Utilities would be the issue dated December 1997, published on December 8, 1997, and covers the 1996 data year. In view of limited resources, the Department proposes that the issuance of this publication be discontinued because the data contained in this publication are collected by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and will be available through FERC.

The last issue of the *U.S. Electric Utility Demand-Side Management* would be the December 1997 issue, published on December 19, 1997, and covers the 1996 data. In order to reduce respondent burden, the EIA restructured Schedule V, "Demand-Side Management Information," on the Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Utility Report," during the 1997 survey re-clearance. The Form EIA-861 requires less detailed Demand Side Management (DSM) data from the reporting utilities. Starting with 1997, the DSM data are collected in a summary format and will continue to be published in the *Electric Power Annual, Volume II*. The annual detail DSM data will be posted on the Internet.

III. Request for Comments

Prospective users of these data and other interested parties may comment on the actions discussed in item II if they so desire. DOE will carefully consider all comments and if it is persuaded by the comments to continue publication of either report, it will publish a notice of its decision.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 15, 1998.

Jay H. Casselberry,

Agency Clearance Officer, Statistics and Methods Group, Energy Information Administration

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[FERC-537 IC98-537-000]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

July 15, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

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) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before September 21, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC-537 "Gas Pipeline Certificates: Construction, Acquisition, and Abandonment" (OMB No. 1902-0060) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA), (15 U.S.C. 3301-3432), and of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w). Under the NGA a natural gas company must obtain Commission authorization to engage in the transportation or sale of natural gas in interstate commerce, to undertake the construction or extension of any facilities, or to acquire or operate any such facilities or extensions in accordance with Section 7c of the NGA. A natural gas company must also obtain Commission approval under Section 7(b) of the NGA prior to abandoning any jurisdictional facility or service. Under the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) interstate and intrastate pipelines must also obtain Commission authorization for certain transportation arrangements.

Information collection 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 for those activities, to authorize the abandonment of facilities and services and to authorize certain NGPA transportations. If a certificate is granted, the natural gas company can engage in the interstate transportation or sale of natural gas and construct, acquire, or operate facilities therefore. Conversely, approval of an abandonment application permits the pipeline to cease service and 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 natural gas companies file the necessary information with the Commission so that a determination can be made from the data as to whether the requested certificate should be authorized. The data required to be submitted consists of identification of the company and responsible officials, factors considered in the location of the facilities, and 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 proposed facilities, plans for financing, and estimated revenues and expenses related to the proposed facility for financial and accounting evaluation. The Commission implements these information collection requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

under 18 CFR Part 2.69; 157.5-11; 157.13-.21; 157.102-.103; 157.106; 157.201-.208; 157.210-.218; 284.8-.9; 284.11; 284.126; 284.221-.224; Part 284 Subpart H.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

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

| No. of respondents annually (1) | No. of responses per respondent (2) | Average burden hours per response (3) | Total annual burden hours (1)x(2)x(3) |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 50 | 11.6 | 252 hours | 146,160 hours. |

Estimated cost burdens to respondents: 141,160 hours divided by 2088 hours per year times \$109,889 equals \$7,429,086. The cost per respondent is equal to \$148,582.

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 base 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER98-3602-000]

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation; Notice of Filing

July 8, 1998.

Take notice that on July 2, 1998, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation (Central Hudson), tendered for filing proposed amendments to the Form of Service Agreement For Retail Access of its Open Access Transmission Tariff on file in Docket No. OA96-14-000 to implement retail access to its system as required by orders of the New York Public Service Commission. The details of the proposed amendments are more fully described in Central Hudson's filing.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing 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 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before July 22, 1998. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine 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. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-343-001]

Dauphin Island Gathering Partners; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

July 15, 1998.

Take notice that on July 13, 1998, Dauphin Island Gathering Partners (DIGP) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, the tariff sheet listed below to become effective August 1, 1998:

First Revised Sheet No. 226

DIGP states that this tariff sheet corrects a pagination error included in DIGP's July 2, 1998, filing to comply with Order No. 587-G.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,