public. All records required under the proposed amendments to Rule 10b–18 would be preserved for not less than 3 years, the first 2 years in an easily accessible place.

Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(B), the Commission solicits comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information shall have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collections of information;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Persons desiring to submit comments on the collection of information requirements should direct them to the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20503, and should also send a copy of their comments to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Stop 6–9, Washington, D.C. 20549 with reference to File No. S7–27–98. OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collections of information between 30 and 60 days after publication, so a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

IX. Statutory Basis and Text of Proposed Amendment

The rule amendment is being proposed pursuant to Sections 2, 3, 9(a)(6), 10(b), 13(e), 15(c) and 23(a), 15 U.S.C. 78b, 78c, 78i(a)(6), 78j(b), 78m(e), 78o(c) and 78w(a).

List of Subjects in 17 CFR Part 240

Broker-dealers, Issuers, Securities.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, Title 17, Chapter II of the Code of Federal Regulations is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 240—GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

1. The authority citation to Part 240 continues to read in part as follows:

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 77c, 77d, 77g, 77j, 77s, 77z–2, 77eee, 77ggg, 77nnn, 77sss, 77ttt, 78c, 78d, 78f, 78i, 78j, 78j–1, 78k, 78k–1, 78*l*, 78m, 78n, 78o, 78p, 78q, 78s, 78u–5, 78w, 78x, 78*ll*(d), 78mm, 79q, 79t, 80a–20, 80a–23, 80a–29, 80a–37, 80b–3, 80b–4 and 80b–11, unless otherwise noted.

* * * * *

2. Section 240.10b–18 is amended by adding paragraphs (a)(15) and (d) and revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 240.10b–18 Purchases of certain equity securities by the issuer and others.

(a) *Definitions.* * * *

(15) The term *market-wide trading suspension* means either:

(i) A market-wide trading halt imposed pursuant to the rules of a national securities exchange or a registered national securities association, in response to a market-wide decline during a single trading session; or

(ii) A market-wide trading suspension ordered by the Commission pursuant to Section 12(k) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78*l*(k).

* * * * *

(c) *Conditions following a market-wide trading suspension.*

(1) The conditions of paragraph (b) of this section shall apply in connection with a Rule 10b–18 bid or a Rule 10b–18 purchase effected during a trading session following the termination of a market-wide trading suspension, except that the time of purchase condition in paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall not apply, either:

(i) From the reopening of trading until the scheduled close of trading; or

(ii) At the opening of trading on the next trading day, if a market-wide trading suspension is in effect at the scheduled close of a trading session.

(d) No presumption shall arise that an issuer or affiliated purchaser of an issuer has violated the anti-manipulation provisions of sections 9(a)(2) or 10(b) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78i(a)(2) or 78j(b), or § 240.10b–5, if the Rule 10b–18 bids or Rule 10b–18 purchases of such issuer or affiliated purchaser do not meet the conditions specified in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section.

* * * * *

By the Commission.

Dated: October 29, 1998.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–29510 Filed 11–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

18 CFR Parts 4, 153, 157, and 375

[Docket No. RM98–16–000]

Collaborative Procedures for Energy Facilities Applications; Notice of Technical Conferences

October 30, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Technical Conferences.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) intends to hold staff technical conferences to discuss the proposed pre-filing collaborative process.

DATES: Conference will be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 10, 1998, in Houston, Texas and at 9:00 a.m. on November 18, 1998, in Chicago, Illinois.

ADDRESSES: Conference locations are as follows:

Houston Airport Marriott, 18700 Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, Texas

Chicago Marriott Downtown, 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas Russo, Office of Pipeline Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, (202) 219–2792

Berne Mosley, Office of Pipeline Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, (202) 208–2256

Gordon Wagner, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, (202) 219–0122

Merrill Hathaway, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, (202) 208–0825

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission also provides all interested persons an opportunity to inspect or copy the contents of this document during normal business hours in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washhington, D.C. 20426.

The Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS) provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission. CIPS can be accessed via

Internet through FERC's Homepage (http://www.ferc.fed.us) using the CIPS Link or the Energy Information Online icon. The full text of this document will be available on CIPS in ASCII and WordPerfect 6.1 format. CIPS is also available through the Commission's electronic bulletin board service at no charge to the user and may be accessed using a personal computer with a modem by dialing 202–208–1397, if dialing locally, or 1–800–856–3920, if dialing long distance. To access CIPS, set your communications software to 19200, 14400, 12000, 9600, 7200, 4800, 2400, or 1200 bps, full duplex, no parity, 8 data bits and 1 stop bit. User assistance is available at 202–208–2474 or by E-mail to CipsMaster@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 RimsMaster@FERC.fed.us.

Finally, the complete text on diskette in WordPerfect format may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, RVJ International, Inc. RVJ International, Inc., is located in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is proposing to expand its procedural regulations governing the authorization of natural gas facilities and services, and is considering revising its procedural regulations governing applications for licenses for hydroelectric projects.[1] The proposed regulations are intended to offer prospective applicants seeking to construct, operate or abandon natural gas facilities or services the option, in appropriate circumstances and prior to filing an application, of using a collaborative process to resolve significant issues. In addition, a significant portion of the environmental review process could be completed as part of the pre-filing collaborative process. This pre-filing collaborative process is comparable to the process the Commission recently adopted with respect to applications for hydroelectric licenses, amendments and exemptions and, like those regulations, is optional and is designed to be adaptable to the facts and circumstances of the particular case. The proposed regulations would not delete or replace any existing regulations. Finally, the Commission is considering whether the existing collaborative process for hydroelectric license and exemption applications, as well as the proposed collaborative process for natural gas facilities and services, should be made mandatory.

Staff technical conferences will be held to provide an overview of the proposed pre-filing collaborative process and to respond to questions. Conferences will be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 10, 1998, at the Houston Airport Marriott, 18700 Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, Texas, and on November 18, 1998, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown, 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. These conferences are designed as workshops in which Commission staff will present information and respond to questions concerning the proposed collaborative process as an aid to assist participants in developing comments in response to and as requested in the September 30, 1998 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Accordingly, there will be no transcript and statements made in the context of the workshops will not become part of the record in this proceeding. All parties—particularly those with experience with collaborative processes, whether at this agency or in another context—are invited to attend.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–29590 Filed 11–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

[1] *See* 84 FERC ¶ 61,346 (September 30, 1998).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 880

[Docket No. 98N–0786]

General Hospital and Personal Use Devices: Proposed Classification of Liquid Chemical Sterilants and General Purpose Disinfectants

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is proposing to classify both liquid chemical sterilants intended for use as the terminal step in processing critical and semicritical medical devices prior to patient use, and general purpose disinfectants intended to process noncritical medical devices and equipment surfaces. Under the proposal, liquid chemical sterilants would be classified into class II (special controls) and general purpose disinfectants would be classified into class I (general controls). FDA also proposes to exempt general purpose disinfectants from the premarket notification requirements. The agency is publishing in this document the recommendations of the General Hospital and Personal Use Devices Panel (the Panel) regarding the classification of these devices. After considering public comments on the proposed classification, FDA will publish a final regulation classifying these devices. This action is being taken to establish sufficient regulatory controls that will provide reasonable assurance of the safety and effectiveness of these devices.

DATES: Written comments by February 4, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chiu S. Lin, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (HFZ–480), Food and Drug Administration, 9200 Corporate Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850, 301–443–8913.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*), as amended by the Medical Devices Amendments of 1976 (the 1976 amendments) (Pub. L. 94–295), the Safe Medical Devices Act of 1990 (the SMDA) (Pub. L. 101–629), and the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997 (the FDAMA) (Pub. L. 105–115), established a comprehensive system for the regulation of medical devices intended for human use. Section 513 of the act (21 U.S.C. 360c) established three categories (classes) of devices, depending on the regulatory controls needed to provide reasonable assurance of their safety and effectiveness. The three categories of devices are class I (general controls), class II (special controls), and class III (premarket approval).

Under section 513 of the act, devices that were in commercial distribution before May 28, 1976 (the date of enactment of the 1976 amendments), generally referred to as preamendments devices, are classified after FDA has: (1)