

**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:** Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before November 27, 2001.

**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 NE., Washington, DC 20426.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 208-2425, and by e-mail at [mike.miller@ferc.fed.us](mailto:mike.miller@ferc.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form 2 "Annual

Report for Major Natural Gas Companies" (OMB No. 1902-0028) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) 15 U.S.C. 717. The FERC Form 2 is a financial and operating report for natural gas rate regulation for major pipeline owners. "Major" is defined as companies having combined gas sold for resale and gas transported or stored for a fee that exceeds 50 million Dth in each of the three previous calendar years. Under the Form 2, the Commission investigates, collects and records data and prescribes rules and regulations concerning accounts, records and memoranda as necessary to administer the NGA. The Commission is empowered to prescribe a system of accounts for jurisdictional gas pipelines and after notice and opportunity for hearing, may determine the accounts in which particular outlays and receipts will be entered, charged or credited.

Commission staff uses the data in the continuous review of the financial condition of jurisdictional companies,

in various rate proceedings and in the Commission's audit program. FERC Form 2 data are also used to compute annual charges which are assessed against each jurisdictional natural gas pipeline and which are necessary to recover the Commission's annual costs.

The NGA mandates the collection of information needed by the Commission to perform its regulatory responsibilities in the setting of just and reasonable rates. The Commission could be held in violation of the NGA if the information was not collected.

The annual financial information filed with the Commission is a mandatory requirement submitted in a prescribed format which is filed electronically and on paper. The Commission implements these filing requirements in 18 CFR parts 158, 201, 260.1 and 385.2011.

**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 (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
57	1	1,485	84,645

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 86,130 hours/2,080 hours per year × \$117,041 per year = \$4,762,949. The cost per respondent is equal to \$83,561.

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 cost estimate 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.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-24293 Filed 9-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC01-73-000, FERC Form 73]

#### Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

September 24, 2001.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

**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 (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 November 27, 2001.

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Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collected under FERC Form 73 "Oil Pipelines Service Life Data" (OMB No. 1902-0019) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions governed by Sections 306 and 402 of the Department of Energy Organization Act 42 U.S.C. 7155 and 7172, and Executive Order No. 12009, 42 FR 46277 (September 13, 1977). The Commission has authority over interstate oil pipelines as stated in

the Interstate Commerce Act, 49 U.S.C. 6501 *et al.* As part of the information necessary for the subsequent investigation and review of the oil pipeline company's proposed depreciation rates, the pipeline companies are required to provide service life data as part of their data submissions if the proposed depreciation rates are based on remaining physical life calculations. This service life data submitted on FERC Form 73.

The data submitted are used by the Commission to assist in the selection of appropriate service lives and book depreciation rates. Book depreciation rates are used by oil pipeline companies to compute the depreciation portion of their operating expense which is a

component of their cost of service which is turn is used to determine the transportation rate to assess customers. Staff's recommended book depreciation rates become legally binding when issued by Commission Order. These rates remain in effect until a subsequent review is requested and the outcome indicates that a modification is justified. The Commission implements these filing requirements in 18 CFR 347 and 357.

**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 (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
2	1	40	80

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 80 hours/2,080 hours per year × \$117,041 per year = \$4,501. The cost per respondent is equal to \$2251.

The cost estimate 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.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to assemble and disseminate the information including: (1) Reviewing the instructions; (2) developing, or acquiring appropriate technological support systems necessary for the purposes of collecting, validating, processing, and disseminating the information; (3) administration; and (4) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

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 burden estimate 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.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-24295 Filed 9-27-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC01-550-000, FERC-550]

#### Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

September 24, 2001.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

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

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to comments submitted within 60 days of the publication of this notice.

**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 NE., Washington, DC 20426.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collected under FERC Form 550 "Oil Pipeline Rates: Tariff Filings" (OMB No. 1902-0089) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions governed by Part I, Sections 1, 6 and 15 of the Interstate Commerce Act (ICA)(PL. No. 337, 34 Stat. 384). Jurisdiction over oil pipelines, as it relates to the establishment of rates or charges for the transportation of oil by pipeline or the establishment of valuations for pipelines, was transferred from the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to FERC, pursuant to Section 306 and 402 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (DOE Act), 42 U.S.C. 7155 and 7172 and Executive Order No. 12009, 42 FR 46267 (September 15, 1977).

The filing requirements provide the basis for analysis of all rates, fares, or charges whatsoever demanded, charged or collected by any common carrier or carriers in connection with the transportation of crude oil and petroleum products and are used by the Commission to establish a basis for