

review certain federal reporting requirements. 44 U.S.C. 3507. In light of the potential for critical events to occur in the New York electricity market caused by generation outages, particularly during the summer cooling season, Commission staff will be requesting emergency processing of this proposed information collection. If the Commission followed the regular provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act, Commission staff would be unable to collect this information until most of the summer cooling season was over.

Commission staff estimates that between 100 and 110 generators could be subject to this reporting request, and that during any given week, only 15–25 of those entities would likely have an outage to report. However, many entities own several generation units, so the number of entities actually submitting reports would vary. Based on historical average outage rates, compiled by NERC for 1995 through 1999 (see <http://www.nerc.com/~gads>), of U.S. and Canadian generation facilities and the number of plants to be monitored, staff estimates that about 2,900 reports would be filed during the 180 days the reporting request would be in place.

Because Commission staff has created a pre-existing template, generators need not take any time to develop a reporting format. Commission's staff estimates that it would take each generator approximately one hour to fill out an initial report for a generation unit, but, as most of the unit information will remain constant (such as its name, fuel type and megawatt rating), it should take 20 minutes or less to fill out and send each subsequent report.

The outage reports are to be submitted electronically within 24 hours of when a total or partial unit outage begins and ends. As stated above, based on information compiled by the NERC, staff estimates that 2,900 reports may be filed under this information collection requirement. Assuming that number of reports are filed during the 180 days for which this information collection is requested, the total number of hours it would take to comply with the reporting requirement would be approximately 110 hours for initial submission and 930 hours for subsequent submissions, assuming 20 minutes per submission). Commission staff estimates a cost of \$50 per hour for complying with the reporting requirement, based on salaries for professional and clerical staff, as well as direct and indirect overhead costs. Therefore, the total estimated cost of compliance would be \$52,000.

Commission staff will submit this reporting requirement to OMB for approval. OMB's regulation describe the

process that federal agencies must follow in order to obtain OMB approval of reporting requirements. See 5 CFR Part 1320. The standards for emergency processing of information collections appear at 5 CFR 1320.13. If OMB approves a reporting requirement, it will assign an information collection control number to that requirement. If a request for information subject to OMB review does not display a valid control number, or if the agency has not provided a justification as to why the control number cannot be displayed, then the recipient cannot be penalized for failing to respond.

OMB requires federal agencies seeking approval of reporting requirements to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed reporting requirement. 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(1)(iv). Therefore, comments are being solicited on:

- (1) Whether the collection of the information is necessary for the proper performance of the Commission's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of Commission staff's estimate of the burden of the collection of this information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How to minimize the burden of the collection of this information on respondents, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP01–432–000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

June 1, 2001.

Take notice that on May 29, 2001, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) filed to its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following revised tariff sheet bearing a proposed effective date of June 1, 2001:

First Revised First Revised Sheet No. 500B

Columbia states that is submitting FTS Service Agreement Nos. 2000–10–

30–0026 and 2000–10–30–0031 which are agreements for firm transportation to be provided by Columbia to First Energy Trading Services Inc. (First Energy). As directed by the Commission's order in Columbia's Docket No. CP01–70, Columbia is re-filing the First Energy service agreements as non-conforming service agreements to be effective June 1, 2001. Columbia Gas Transmission Corp., 95 FERC ¶ 61,218, mimeo at p. 15 and p. 18. Columbia filed these service agreements on March 27, 2001 in Docket No. CP01–70. As stated in Columbia's Docket No. CP01–70, these firm service arrangements enable First Energy to generate electricity at its West Lorain Generating Station effective June 1.

Columbia states that copies of its filing have been mailed to all firm customers, interruptible customers, and affected state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining 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 in the Public Reference Room. The filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (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 at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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