

the number of required copies, are found at 18 CFR 46.6 and 131.31.

The Commission has used the information filed in FERC Form 561 for the identification of: (1) Possible interlocking positions where the relationship is employed for the director's own benefit or profit, or for the benefit or profit of any other person or persons and to the detriment of the utility's, or the public interest; (2) the possible existence of control over a large

number and geographically widespread public utilities by a small group of individuals; (3) the lack of arm's length dealings between public utilities and organizations furnishing financial services to consumers; and (4) the evasion by means of common control of competition resulting in higher costs and poorer services to consumers.

FERC Form 561 is available in an Excel spreadsheet and requires only updating of the prior year's information.

One signed original hard copy and one photocopy are the required submission to the Commission; the electronic file is an optional submission.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection of information.

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

Number of respondents annually	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)×(2)×(3)
1,600	1	0.25	400

The estimated total cost to respondents is \$22,508. (400 hours divided by 2,088 hours per year per employee times \$117,041 per year per average employee=\$22,508). The cost per respondent is \$14.

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 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; (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.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PR01-1-000]

Associated Natural Gas Company; Notice of Offer of Settlement

May 2, 2001.

Take notice that on April 18, 2001, Associated Natural Gas Company (ANG) tendered for filing a Stipulation and Agreement in the above referenced proceeding. The proposed Settlement established a firm reservation charge of \$1.04146 per MMBtu, a maximum usage charge of \$0.00273 per MMBtu and a maximum interruptible transportation rate of \$0.03697 per MMBtu., effective November 1, 2000.

The Settlement also provides that ANG shall file on or before November 1, 2003 either (1) a new petition for rate approval under Section 284.123(b)(2) or (2) a cost-and revenue study that complies with Section 154.313 of the Commission's regulations.

Initial comments on ANG's filing are due on or before May 8, 2001 and reply comments are due on or before May 18, 2001. 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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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-147-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of an Application

May 2, 2001.

Take notice that on April 6, 2001 Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed in Docket No. CP01-147-000, a request pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), as amended, and the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), requesting permission and approval to abandon service under an individually certificated agreement, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission, and open to public inspection. The application may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims/htm> (Call 202-208-2222 for assistance.)

Specifically, Northern proposes to abandon service to El Paso Natural Gas