

DATES: Comments regarding this collection of information are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before May 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. A copy of the comments should also be sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Attention: Mr. Michael Miller, 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) 273-0873, and by e-mail: mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description

The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review contains:

1. *Collection of Information:* FERC Form 556 "Cogeneration and Small Power Production".

2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3. *Control No.:* OMB No. 1902-0075. The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection. This is a mandatory information collection requirement.

4. *Necessity of Collection of Information:* Submission of the information is necessary to fulfill the requirements of section 3 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), and sections 201 and 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). The reporting requirements associated with FERC Form 556 are codified at 18 CFR 131.80 and Part 292 of the Commission's regulations.

FERC Form 556 requires owners and/or operators of small power production or cogeneration facilities who seek qualifying status for their facilities, to file the information requested in Form 556 either as an application to the Commission for certification as a qualifying facility (QF) or to use Form 556 as a notice of self certification.

A primary objective of PURPA is conservation of energy through the efficient use of resources in the generation of electric power. One means of achieving this objective is to encourage electric power production by cogeneration facilities which make use of reject heat associated with commercial and industrial processes, and by small power production facilities

which use waste and renewable resources as fuel. PURPA, through the establishment of various regulatory benefits, encourages the development of small power production facilities which meet certain technical and corporate criteria. PURPA benefits afforded QFs include exemption from certain corporate, accounting, reporting and rate regulation under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA), certain state laws, and in certain instances, regulation under the FPA. Additionally, other benefits afforded to QFs are in the form of requirements for electric utilities to: (1) Make avoided cost information and system capacity needs available to the public; (2) purchase energy and capacity from QFs at the utility's avoided cost of power (ie. the cost to the purchasing utility to generate the power itself or as the cost to purchase it from another source; (3) sell backup, maintenance and other power services to QFs at rates based on the cost of rendering the services; (4) provide certain interconnection and transmission services priced on a nondiscriminatory basis; and (5) operate in "parallel" with interconnected QFs so that they may be electronically synchronized with electric utility grids. The information submitted enables the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing the statutory provisions of both the EPA and PURPA by determining whether a facility meets the necessary requirements and is entitled to various PURPA benefits.

Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises on average, 100 entities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. *Estimated Burden:* 400 total burden hours, 100 respondents, 1 response annually, 4 hours per response (average).

7. *Estimated Cost Burden to Respondents:* 400 hours ÷ 2,080 hours per year × \$115,357 per year = \$22,184 average cost per respondent \$222.

Statutory Authority: Sections 201 and 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) (16 U.S.C. 796 as amended and 16 U.S.C. 824a-3) and sections 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-8377 Filed 4-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-53-000]

Kinder Morgan Interstate Gas Transmission, LLC; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

March 30, 2001.

An informal settlement conference in the above docket will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2001, to address the outstanding ad valorem tax issues on the Kinder Morgan Interstate Gas Transmission, LLC system. The conference will be held in the offices of Kinder Morgan, 370 Van Gordon Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80228. The informal settlement conference will begin at 10:30 a.m.

All interested parties in the above docket are requested to attend the informal settlement conference. If a party has any questions regarding the conference, please call Richard Miles, the Director of the Commission's Dispute Resolution Service. His telephone number is 1 877 FERC ADR (337-2237) or 202/208-0702 and his e-mail address is richard.miles@ferc.fed.us. If you plan on attending the conference, please contact Ben Breland at Kinder Morgan by fax at 303-763-3116.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-8381 Filed 4-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2031-046]

Springville City, UT; Notice of Public Scoping for the Environmental Assessment Evaluating Issuance of a New License for the Bartholomew Hydroelectric Project in Utah County, UT

March 30, 2001.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and procedures of the Federal Regulatory Commission, the Commission staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the environmental impacts of issuing a new license for the constructed and operating Bartholomew Project, No. 2031-046, located within Bartholomew Canyon and on Hobbie Creek, in Utah County, Utah. The subject project is