

vessels would be authorized to make 12 tows each in either the Hudson Canyon Access Area or the open areas of GB between depths of 20 and 50 fathoms. The proposed fishing areas on GB lie west of 67°00' W. lat. and east of 70°00' W. lat.; north of 40°00' N. long. and south of 42°00' N. long. Conducting the trips in open areas would allow the gear to be tested in areas of varying scallop and finfish abundance, as well as on different substrates. Information gathered from this experiment could be used in the consideration in future management actions under the FMP. If the BRDs can be successfully deployed in scallop gear, the researcher has stated that he is likely to request a subsequent EFP to conduct a more extensive study of BRDs as a bycatch reduction tool. The participating vessels would be allowed to retain the catch of scallops and the allowed levels of incidental catch of other species (e.g., 300 lb (136 kg) of regulated multispecies and monkfish) per trip. The EFP would allow exemptions from the following regulations under Fisheries of the Northeastern United States (50 CFR part 648): scallop dredge twine top restrictions specified at § 648.51(b)(4)(iv).

The proposed gear exemption is not expected to result in catch or bycatch beyond normal scallop operations. The only exemption is for an experimental BRD and a 6-inch (15.2 cm) twine top panel (6 meshes wide by 80 meshes long) inserted into a standard 10-inch (25.4 cm) twine top on a standard scallop dredge. The environmental impacts of this activity is not expected to exceed those already considered for the existing scallop fishery.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 29, 2004.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 04-7344 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Intent To Grant an Exclusive Patent License

Pursuant to the provisions of part 404 of Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, which implements Public Law 96-517, as amended, the Department of the Air Force announces its intention to grant R/D Tech Inc., a Canadian corporation, having a place of business at Quebec, Canada, an exclusive license in any

right, title and interest the Air Force has in: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/209,298, filed 30 July 2002, entitled "Phased Array Ultrasonic NDT System for Fastener Inspections," by Michael Moles, Olivier Dupuis, Fabrice Cancre, Pamela Herzog, James T. Miller, and Jamie Hatmaker.

Canadian Patent Application Serial No. 2,396,117, filed 30 July 2002, entitled "Phased Array Ultrasonic NDT System for Fastener Inspections," by Michael Moles, Olivier Dupuis, Fabrice Cancre, Pamela Herzog, James T. Miller, and Jamie Hatmaker.

Any objection to the grant of the license must be submitted in writing and received within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice in order to be considered. Written objection should be sent to: Air Force Materiel Command Law Office, AFMCLO/JAZ, 2240 B Street, Rm. 100, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7109. Telephone: (937) 255-2838; Facsimile (937) 255-3733.

Pamela Fitzgerald,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-7364 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC03-423-001, FERC Form-423]

Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Submitted for OMB Review

March 26, 2004.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; DOE.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and reinstatement of this information collection requirement. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission received comments from two entities in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of February 13, 2003 (68 FR 7353-54) and has responded to their comments in its submission to OMB.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by April 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Address comments on the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. Comments to OMB should be filed electronically, c/o *Pamela L. Beverly@omb.eop.gov* and include the OMB Control No. as a point of reference. The Desk Officer may be reached by telephone at 202-395-7856. A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Executive Director, ED-30, Attention: Michael Miller, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those persons filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. For paper filings, such comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and should refer to Docket No. IC03-423-001.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in WordPerfect, MS Word, Portable Document Format, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and click on "Make an E-filing," and then follow the instructions for each screen. First time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgment to the sender's E-mail address upon receipt of comments. User assistance for electronic filings is available at 202-502-8258 or by e-mail to efiling@ferc.gov. Comments should not be submitted to the e-mail address.

All comments are available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 502-8415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description

The information collection submitted for OMB review contains the following:

1. *Collection of Information:* FERC Form 423 "Monthly Report on the Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Plants."

2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3. *Control No.:* 1902-0024.

The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve and reinstate with a three-year extension of the expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection. The information filed with the Commission is mandatory.

4. *Necessity of the Collection of Information:* Submission of the information is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing the statutory provisions of Sections 205-206 of the Federal Power Act as amended by Section 208 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA). The Commission uses the information to collect basic cost and quality of fuels data at electric generating plants on the FERC Form 423, and has used such data to conduct fuel reviews, rate investigations and to track market changes and trends in the electric wholesale market. The data is also used by other government agencies to track the supply, disposition and prices of fuel, to conduct environmental assessments, and by electric market participants and the public to assess the competitive market place. Monthly evaluation of the Form 423 data makes it possible to discern instances in which a utility's fuel costs deviate significantly from existing market prices. Such deviations may be significant since fuel costs are a significant share of the costs that underlie a utility's rates. And, depending on the results of the evaluation, the Commission can either accept a utility's proposed rate as filed, or suspend the proposed rate and set the matter for hearing. The data has helped to identify the effects of the quality of fuel, market conditions, and the origin of production on fuel prices, which can signal possible procurement inefficiencies. The Commission implements the filing requirements in the Code of Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR Parts 141.61.

5. *Respondent Description:* The respondent universe currently comprises 76 companies (on average per year) subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. *Estimated Burden:* 7,008 total hours, 584 respondents (average per year), 12 responses per respondent, and 1 hour per response (average).

7. *Estimated Cost Burden to respondents:* 7,008 hours / 2080 hours per years $\times$ \$107,185 per year = \$135,991. The cost per respondent is equal to \$155,655.

Statutory Authority: Sections 205-206 of the FPA (16 U.S.C. 824d and e) and Section 208 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), (16 U.S.C. 2601 *et. al.*)

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-726 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[IC04-549B-000, FERC-549B]

Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

March 26, 2004.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; DOE.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by June 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from Michael Miller, Office of the Executive Director, ED-30, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those persons filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. For paper filings, the original and 14 copies of such comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and should refer to Docket No. IC04-549B-000.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in WordPerfect, MS Word, Portable Document Format, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and click on "Make an E-filing," and then follow the instructions for each screen. First time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgment to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of comments. User assistance for electronic filings is available at 202-502-8258 or by e-mail to efiling@ferc.gov. Comments should not be submitted to the e-mail address.

All comments are available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the 'eLibrary' link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact

FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676 or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 502-8415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information is collected under the requirements of FERC-549B "Gas Pipeline Rates: Capacity Information" (OMB No. 1902-0169) which contains both the Index of Customers Report and the Capacity Report under Part 284 of the Commission's Regulations. The information is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of the sections 4, 5, and 16 of the NGA, 15 U.S.C. 717c-717o, PL. 75-688, 52 Stat. 822 and 830) and Title III of the NGPA, 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432, PL. 95-621.

In Order No. 636, the Commission established a capacity release mechanism under which shippers can release firm transportation and storage capacity on either a short or long term basis to other shippers wanting to obtain capacity. In Order No. 636-A, the Commission determined that the efficiency of the capacity release mechanism would be enhanced by standardizing both the content of capacity release information and the methods by which shippers access that information.

In Order No. 637, the Commission amended its regulations in response to the growing development of more competitive markets for natural gas. In the rule, FERC revised its current regulatory framework to improve the efficiency of the market and provide captive customers with the opportunity to reduce their cost of holding long-term capacity while continuing to protect against the exercise of market power.

To create greater substitution between different forms of capacity and enhance competition across the pipeline grid, Order No. 637 also revised the regulations regarding scheduling, segmentation and flexible point rights, penalties, and reporting requirements. FERC revised pipeline scheduling procedures so that capacity release transactions can be better coordinated with the nomination process. Pipelines are required to permit shippers to segment capacity whenever feasible,