

- Questions about how joint operations of a field should be reported; *e.g.*, companies did not always report on all gas contained in a field, instead only on the volumes they owned.

- Questions about whether gas should be identified as base or working; *e.g.*, some respondents inadvertently reported total gas volumes rather than working gas volumes.

Methodological comments included a recommendation that the EIA-912 should be a census rather than a sample survey, suggestions on smoothing the estimation parameters when shifting reference months, and increasing the level of significant digits that respondents should include when reporting their data. A sample survey was chosen instead of a census, because a census would have increased respondent burden substantially without providing significantly more accuracy than a sample survey. EIA's objective in selection of the sample was to attain a coefficient of variation less than or equal to 5 percent in the estimates for each region. This was attained without imposing the additional cost and burden of a census on respondents. EIA currently is reviewing its methodology and investigating the possibility of using different smoothing and estimation methods. EIA is deferring temporarily further updates in estimation parameters, and is exploring ways to minimize revisions, including analysis of the sensitivity of the estimates to parameter changes. EIA will continue with the current estimation parameters and will report revisions as a result of respondent changes only, until further notice. The methodology may change when the analysis effort has been completed. Any changes to the current methodology will be announced in the WNGSR and suitable documentation will be posted on the EIA Internet Web-site.

### III. Current Actions

EIA is establishing a policy for revisions to information disseminated in the WNGSR. With respect to the treatment of revisions to WNGSR data, EIA had proposed a policy that covered the release of information under two different scenarios: (1) Releasing any revisions only with the release of the regularly scheduled WNGSR, and (2) including relatively small volume revisions (*i.e.*, between 7 Bcf and 35 Bcf) with the regularly scheduled release and conducting unscheduled releases of major revisions of 35 Bcf or greater.

The comments received in response to the **Federal Register** notice did not produce a clear consensus on issues

raised. However EIA used the comments to reach certain conclusions regarding a proper revision policy. A plurality of respondents indicated that 7 Bcf is an appropriate threshold to trigger revisions to previously published estimates. EIA has begun statistical analyses to explore further the issue of the size for the threshold that would trigger a revision, and to evaluate the current estimation methodology. However, in the interim, 7 Bcf will be retained as the active threshold.

EIA proposed a 35 Bcf threshold to trigger unscheduled releases of revisions because it is roughly equivalent to one standard deviation of the working gas in storage estimate that prevailed in the early weeks of the WNGSR when stock estimates and the associated standard deviations are expected to be around their lowest level. The suggestions from respondents on specific thresholds seemed to be drawn from judgment based on industry experience and did not seem to have an empirical basis.

Nonetheless, a plurality of respondents opposed the notion of unscheduled releases of revised estimates. In light of these comments and without an empirical basis on which to institute an unscheduled release policy, EIA decided that it would not be prudent to do so at this time. EIA also considered the possibility of maintaining the discretion to disseminate an unscheduled revision if the organization decides that events may warrant it. However, as a policy neutral organization, EIA recognizes that a plan to exercise this discretion with the market-moving storage series could be more disruptive than beneficial.

*EIA WNGSR revisions policy.* Scheduled revisions shall be disseminated in the WNGSR according to the established schedule and shall occur when the effect of reported changes is at least 7 billion cubic feet (Bcf) at either a regional or national level. If a revision is made, changes to all regions shall be recorded. Consequently, although all respondents' changes shall be entered into EIA's database for editing, imputation, and other analytic purposes, the changes shall only lead to a published revision when it exceeds the 7 Bcf threshold. Revisions shall not be disseminated on an unscheduled basis.

EIA reserves the right to revisit or amend this policy. However, EIA shall not issue unscheduled revisions or establish a new revision policy without prior notification in the Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report or the **Federal Register**.

**Statutory Authority:** Section 52 of the Federal Energy Administration Act (Pub. L. No. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 790a).

Issued in Washington, DC, November 4, 2002.

**Nancy J. Kirkendall,**

*Director, Statistics and Methods Group, Energy Information Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC02-520-001, FERC-520]

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

November 4, 2002.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**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 extension of the current expiration date. 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 no comments in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of August 16, 2002 (67 FR 54410-54412) and has noted this fact in its submission to OMB.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by December 3, 2002.

**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, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. 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 Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 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 refer to Docket No. IC02-520-001.

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 202-208-0258 or by e-mail to [efiling@ferc.fed.us](mailto:efiling@ferc.fed.us). Comments should not be submitted to the e-mail address.

All comments may be viewed, printed or downloaded remotely via the Internet through FERC's homepage using the FERRIS link. User assistance for FERRIS is available at 202-502-8222, or by e-mail to [contentmaster@ferc.fed.us](mailto:contentmaster@ferc.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 502-8415, by fax at (202) 208-2425, and by e-mail at [michael.miller@ferc.gov](mailto:michael.miller@ferc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Description**

The information collected and submitted for OMB review contains:

1. *Collection of Information:* FERC-520 "Application for Authority to Hold Interlocking Directorate Positions".
2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
3. *Control No.* 1902-0083.

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 and the Commission does not consider the information to be confidential.

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 the Federal Power Act (FPA.), Section 305(b), 16 U.S.C. 825(d), and 825(j). Section 305(b) makes the holding of certain defined interlocking corporate positions unlawful, unless the Commission has authorized the interlocks to be held. The information submitted by the applicant to show in a form and manner as prescribed by the Commission, that

neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by the holding of the position. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 45.

Under part 45 each person that desires to hold an interlocking position (Interlocking Directorates are defined as a number of separately organized and functioning corporations managed by the same or nearly the same group of directors) must submit an application to the Commission for authorization, or if qualified, comply with the requirements for automatic authorization. The information required under Part 45 generally identifies the applicant, describes the various interlocking positions the applicant seeks authorization to hold, provides information on the applicant's financial interests, other officers and directors of the firms involves, and the nature of the business relationships among the firms.

The Commission uses the information as part of its interlocking directorate oversight and enforcement responsibilities in accordance with the FPA and with FERC's regulations as referenced above. Without this information, the FERC would be unable to examine and approve or deny interlocking directorates of public utility officers and directors. The FERC may employ enforcement proceedings when violations occur.

5. *Respondent Description:* The respondent universe currently comprises (on average) 28 entities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. *Estimated Burden:* 1,450 total hours, 28. respondents(average), 1 response per respondent annually, 51.8 hours per response (average).

7. *Estimated Cost Burden to respondents:* \$81,591 (28 respondents x \$117,041 2080). The cost per respondent = \$2,914 (rounded off).

**Statutory Authority:** Sections 305 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 825(d).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. IC02-598-001, FERC-598]

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

November 5, 2002.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**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 extension of the current expiration date. 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 no comments in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of August 22, 2002 (67 FR 54412) and has noted this fact in its submission to OMB.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by December 4, 2002.

**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, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. 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 Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 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 refer to Docket No. IC02-598-001.

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