

information collection (OMB control number 1212-0054; expires November 30, 2003) relating to model forms contained in the PBGC booklet, *Divorce Orders & PBGC*. The booklet provides guidance on how to submit a proper qualified domestic relations order (a "QDRO") to the PBGC. This notice informs the public of the PBGC's request and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

DATES: Comments should be submitted by November 28, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of the request for extension (including the collection of information) may be obtained without charge by writing to the PBGC's Communications and Public Affairs Department, suite 240, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, or by visiting that office or calling (202)-326-4040 during normal business hours. (TTY and TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and request connection to 202-326-4040.) The *Divorce Orders & PBGC* booklet may be accessed on the PBGC's Web site at <http://www.pbgc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James L. Beller, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, 202-326-4020. TTY and TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PBGC is requesting a three-year extension of the paperwork approval relating to model forms contained in the PBGC booklet, *Divorce Orders & PBGC*. The collection of information has been approved through November 30, 2003, by OMB under control number 1212-0054. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

A defined benefit pension plan that does not have enough money to pay benefits may be terminated if the employer responsible for the plan faces severe financial difficulty, such as bankruptcy, and is unable to maintain the plan. In such an event, the PBGC becomes trustee of the plan and pays benefits, subject to legal limits, to plan participants and beneficiaries.

The benefits of a pension plan participant generally may not be

assigned or alienated. Title I of ERISA provides an exception for domestic relations orders that relate to child support, alimony payments, or marital property rights of an alternate payee (a spouse, former spouse, child, or other dependent of a plan participant). The exception applies only if the domestic relations order meets specific legal requirements that make it a qualified domestic relations order.

When the PBGC is trustee of a plan, it reviews submitted domestic relations orders to determine whether the order is qualified before paying benefits to an alternate payee. The requirements for submitting a QDRO are established by statute. The models and the guidance assist parties by making it easier to comply with ERISA's QDRO requirements in plans trusted by the PBGC; they do not create any additional requirements and result in a reduction of the statutory burden.

The PBGC estimates that it will receive 664 QDROs each year from prospective alternate payees; that the average burden of preparing a QDRO with the assistance of the guidance and model QDROs in PBGC's booklet will be ¼ hour of the alternate payee's time and \$734 in professional fees if the alternate payee hires an attorney or other professional to prepare the QDRO, or 10 hours of the alternate payee's time if the alternate payee prepares the QDRO without hiring an attorney or other professional; and that the total annual burden will be 234 hours and \$482,400.

The PBGC is revising the QDRO booklet by providing an insert noting that the PBGC now offers more choices of annuity benefit forms. The insert will briefly describe the new benefit options and their availability to alternate payees and will refer parties to the PBGC's Web site, <http://www.pbgc.gov>, or the PBGC's regulations (29 CFR 4022) for more information on these annuity benefit forms.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of October, 2003.

Stuart Sirkin,

Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-27222 Filed 10-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and

Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 15c2-12, SEC File No. 270-330, OMB Control No. 3235-0372

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

• Rule 15c2-12 Disclosure requirements for municipal securities

Rule 15c2-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires underwriters of municipal securities: (1) To obtain and review a copy of an official statement deemed final by an issuer of the securities, except for the omission of specified information; (2) in non-competitively bid offerings, to make available, upon request, the most recent preliminary official statement, if any; (3) to contract with the issuer of the securities, or its agent, to receive, within specified time periods, sufficient copies of the issuer's final official statement to comply both with this rule and any rules of the MSRB; (4) to provide, for a specified period of time, copies of the final official statement to any potential customer upon request; (5) before purchasing or selling municipal securities in connection with an offering, to reasonably determine that the issuer or other specified person has undertaken, in a written agreement or contract, for the benefit of holders of such municipal securities, to provide certain information about the issue or issuer on a continuing basis to a nationally recognized municipal securities information repository; and (6) to review the information the issuer of the municipal security has undertaken to provide prior to recommending a transaction in the municipal security.

These disclosure and recordkeeping requirements will ensure that investors have adequate access to official disclosure documents that contain details about the value and risks of particular municipal securities at the time of issuance while the existence of compulsory repositories will ensure that investors have continued access to terms and provisions relating to certain static features of those municipal securities. The provisions of Rule 15c2-12 regarding an issuer's continuing disclosure requirements assist investors by ensuring that information about an

issue or issuer remains available after the issuance.

Municipal offerings of less than \$1 million are exempt from the rule, as are offerings of municipal securities issued in large denominations that are sold to no more than 35 sophisticated investors, have short-term maturities, or have short-term tender or put features. It is estimated that approximately 12,000 brokers, dealers, municipal securities dealers, issuers of municipal securities, and nationally recognized municipal securities information repositories will spend a total of 123,850 hours per year complying with Rule 15c2-12.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: October 22, 2003.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-27224 Filed 10-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-27742]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

October 23, 2003.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission under provisions of the Act and rules promulgated under the Act. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendment(s) is/

are available for public inspection through the Commission's Branch of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by November 17, 2003, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549-0609, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in the case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of fact or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After November 17, 2003 the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

Alliant Energy Corporation, et al. (70-9891)

Alliant Energy Corporation. ("Alliant Energy"), a registered holding company under the Act, Alliant Energy Resources, Inc. ("AER"), a nonutility subsidiary of Alliant Energy, both located at 4902 N. Biltmore Lane, Madison, Wisconsin 53718; AER's direct nonutility subsidiaries Alliant Energy Integrated Services Company and its subsidiaries, Alliant Energy Investments, Inc. and its subsidiaries, and Alliant Energy Transportation, Inc., all located at 200 First Street S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401; and AER's subsidiaries Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation ("Whiting Oil and Gas");¹ and Whiting Petroleum Corporation ("WPC");² all located at Mile High Center, Suite 2300, 1700 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80290-2300 (collectively, "Applicants"), have filed a post-effective amendment under sections 9(a) and 10 of the Act and rule 54 under the Act to their application-declaration ("Post-Effective Amendment").

By order dated October 3, 2001 ("Prior Order"),³ as amended by a supplemental order dated December 17, 2002 ("Supplemental Order"),⁴ the Commission authorized Alliant Energy, AER and certain other nonutility subsidiaries of Alliant Energy

("Nonutility Subsidiaries"), through December 31, 2004 ("Authorization Period"), to engage in a program of external long-term financing transactions, to provide guarantees and other forms of credit support with respect to obligations of subsidiaries of Alliant Energy, to enter into interest rate hedges, to engage in certain non-utility energy-related activities, and to engage in certain other related transactions.

In the Prior Order, the Commission authorized Alliant Energy, through AER and its other Nonutility Subsidiaries, to invest in certain types of energy-related nonutility assets in the United States and Canada, specifically including natural gas production, gathering, processing, storage and transportation facilities and equipment, liquid oil reserves and storage facilities, and associated facilities (collectively, "Energy Assets"), that are incidental to the ongoing oil and gas exploration and production and energy marketing, brokering and trading operations of the Nonutility Subsidiaries. The Commission also authorized AER and its subsidiaries to invest up to \$800 million ("Investment Limitation") at any one time outstanding during the Authorization Period in Energy Assets or in the equity securities of existing or new companies substantially all of whose physical properties consist or will consist of Energy Assets.⁵

Applicants request a modification to the Prior Order to: (i) authorize WPC,⁶ Whiting Oil and Gas and their subsidiaries to invest up to \$800 million at any one time outstanding in Energy Assets ("WPC Investment Limitation") and (ii) reduce the current Investment Limitation under the Prior Order from \$800 million to \$200 million ("New AER Investment Limitation").⁷ Only

⁵ Applicants state that, as of June 30, 2003, AER and its subsidiaries had made investments during the Authorization Period in Energy Assets totaling approximately \$384 million, of which \$379 million represented investments in oil and gas exploration and production properties by Whiting Oil and Gas.

⁶ Applicants state that on July 25, 2003, WPC (under the name Whiting Petroleum Holdings, Inc.) filed a Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-107341) with respect to an initial public offering ("IPO") of its common stock. AER states that it expects to sell at least 51% of the issued and outstanding common stock of WPC in the IPO. Applicants state that it expects that the IPO will be completed by the end of November 2003. Applicants further state that AER intends to divest its remaining interest in WPC during the first half of 2004, subject to market conditions. Thus, Applicants request in this Post-Effective Amendment, that the modification to the Prior Order be granted, subject only to the sale of at least 50% of the common stock of WPC or Whiting Oil and Gas to one or more purchasers in a public or negotiated private sale.

⁷ The proposed modifications would increase the overall investment limitation in Energy Assets from

¹ Whiting Oil and Gas was formerly known as Whiting Petroleum Corporation.

² WPC was formerly known as Whiting Petroleum Holdings, Inc. WPC is a new intermediate subsidiary formed by AER to become a holding company over Whiting Oil and Gas.

³ HCAR No. 27448 (October 3, 2001).

⁴ HCAR No. 27620 (December 17, 2002).

Continued