

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Special Programs Administration**

[Docket RSPA-99-4957]

Information Collection; Request for Public Comments and OMB Approval

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Request for public comments and OMB approval.

SUMMARY: This notice seeks comments from the public regarding the need for RSPA to collect paperwork from gas service line operators to ensure that customers receiving gas pipeline service are aware of the availability of excess flow valves (EFV's). This notice is published (pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995) to measure the need for the paperwork collection on EFV's, ways to minimize the burden on operators who must respond, ways to enhance the quality of the information collected, and to verify the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (measured in work hours) on pipeline operators. By advising customers of the availability of excess flow valves, the notices give customers information to help them decide if they would like to purchase excess flow valves for gas lines running into their homes. The RSPA published a notice on March 5, 2002, requesting public comment. No comments were received. This notice also seeks approval from the Office of Management and Budget to renew the existing approval of this paperwork collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 5, 2002, to ensure consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marvin Fell, OPS, RSPA, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20950, telephone (202) 366-6205 or e-mail marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Information Collection: Excess Flow Valves, Customer Notification.

OMB Number: 2137-0593.

Abstract: 49 U.S.C. 60110 directed DOT to prescribe regulations requiring operators to notify customers in writing about EFV availability, the safety benefits derived from installation, and the costs associated with installation. The regulations provide that, except where installation is already required, the operator will install an EFV that meets prescribed performance criteria at

the customer's request, if the customer pays for the installation.

Respondents: Gas Distribution Pipeline Operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1590.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20,000 hours.

As used in this notice, the terms 'paperwork information' and 'paperwork collection' are synonymous, and include all work related to preparing and disseminating information related to this customer notification requirement including completing paperwork, gathering information and conducting telephone calls.

ADDRESSES: You must identify the docket number RSPA-98-4957 at the beginning of your comments. Comments can be mailed to the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 726 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Desk Officer for DOT.

You may review the public docket containing comments in person in the Dockets Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal Holidays. The Dockets Office is on the plaza level of the NASSIF Building at the Department of Transportation at the above address. Also, you may review public dockets on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov/search>. Once on the search page, type in the last four digits of the docket number shown at the beginning of this notice (in this case 4957) and click on "search."

Comments are invited on: (a) The need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) 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; (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 those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 30, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Special Programs Administration****Pipeline Safety: Revised Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Incident and Annual Report Forms**

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an advisory bulletin.

SUMMARY: The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), advises owners and operators of natural gas transmission pipeline operators of changes in the annual report and incident reporting forms.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Roger Little, (202) 366-4569, or by e-mail, roger.little@rspa.dot.gov. This document can be viewed at the OPS home page at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

In a **Federal Register** notice on August 2, 2000, (65 FR 47585) RSPA/OPS proposed to revise the incident and annual reports for gas transmission and gathering systems. After considering public comments, RSPA/OPS published a **Federal Register** notice on May 8, 2001 (66 FR 23316) to revise forms RSPA F 7100.2, *Incident Report for Gas Transmission and Gathering Systems*, and RSPA F 7100.2-1, *Annual Report for Gas Transmission and Gathering Systems* for use by operators in filing reports due on or after January 1, 2002.

The Federal pipeline safety regulations require gas transmission pipeline operators to file incident reports as specified at 49 CFR 191.15 and annual reports as specified at 49 CFR 191.17. The information collected on natural gas pipeline systems and incidents are an important source of data for identifying safety trends and for managing RSPA/OPS pipeline safety programs.

The studies of natural gas transmission pipeline incident report information revealed deficiencies in the data collected on these forms. In addition, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the General Accounting Office have urged RSPA/OPS to revise the information collected on the natural gas pipeline incident and annual report forms to improve its usefulness. NTSB Safety Recommendation P-96-1 suggests that RSPA/OPS:

* * * develop within 1 year and implement within 2 years a comprehensive plan for the

collection and use of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline accident data that details the type and extent of data to be collected, to provide [RSPA] with the capability to perform methodologically sound accident trend analyses and evaluations of pipeline operator performance using normalized accident data.

Additional information is needed on natural gas transmission operator annual reports for normalizing the incident information and for adequately characterizing the nation's natural gas pipeline infrastructure. RSPA/OPS worked with representatives of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America and the American Gas Association to review the natural gas transmission incident and annual report forms to make the information collected more useful to industry, government, and the public.

RSPA/OPS has revised the incident and annual report forms to improve the usefulness of the reported data. The failure cause categories have been expanded from five to 25 on the incident report. The annual report form includes two new sections: (1) Mileage by decade of installation and (2) mileage by class location.

II. Advisory Bulletin (ADB-02-01)

To: Owners and Operators of Natural Gas Transmission Systems.

Subject: Revised Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Incident and Annual Report Forms.

Purpose: To inform gas transmission pipeline owners and operators that revised forms RSPA F 7100.2, *Incident Report for Gas Transmission and Gathering Systems*, and RSPA F 7100.2-1, *Annual Report for Gas Transmission and Gathering Systems*, are ready and available for use by natural gas transmission pipeline owners and operators, and accessible from the OPS website.

Advisory: As of January 1, 2002, owners and operators of gas transmission pipeline systems should use only the revised forms RSPA F 7100.2, *Incident Report for Gas Transmission and Gathering Systems*, and RSPA F 7100.2-1, *Annual Report for Gas Transmission and Gathering Systems*. As of January 1, 2002, all incidents meeting the reporting criteria in 49 CFR 191.15 are to be reported using the revised form RSPA F 7100.2. Beginning March 15, 2002, the annual reports required by 49 CFR 191.17 are to be filed using the revised form RSPA F 7100.2-1.

Forms and instructions are available upon request as described in 49 CFR 191.19 or are downloadable from the OPS home page at <http://ops.dot.gov> (in

the "FORMS" section under "ONLINE LIBRARY"). RSPA/OPS is also implementing electronic reporting for natural gas transmission pipeline incidents by January 1, 2002, and for annual reports by January 15, 2002, for the annual report due March 15, 2002. Details are available on the OPS home page.

RSPA/OPS has revised the incident report form to improve the usefulness of incident reporting by expanding the cause categories from five to 25. This will assist in trending and normalization of incident data. The natural gas transmission operator annual report form has also been revised to improve its usefulness. The annual report form includes two new sections: (1) Mileage by decade of installation and (2) mileage by class location.

RSPA/OPS understands that operators may need some time to adjust information collection systems and research the new information requested for the annual report filing. If exact information is unavailable, requests for extensions of the filing date may be made to OPS' Information Resources Manager at (202) 366-4569. Pipeline owners and operators may estimate mileage by decade and mileage by class location.

RSPA/OPS reminds owners and operators to file supplemental written reports (on RSPA Form F7100.2) if additional information on an incident later becomes available.

Owners and operators are reminded that all relevant costs must be included in the estimated property damage total on the initial written incident or accident report as well as on supplemental reports. This includes (but is not limited to) costs of: Property damage to the operator's facilities and to property of others; commodity/product not recovered; facility repair and replacement; gas distribution service restoration and relighting; leak locating; right-of-way clean-up, and environmental clean-up and damage. Facility repair, replacement, or change that is not necessitated by the incident should not be included.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 29, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 1120-REIT

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 1120-REIT, U.S. Income Tax Return for Real Estate Investment Trusts.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before August 5, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn P. Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, or through the Internet (CAROL.A.SAVAGE@irs.gov), Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: U.S. Income Tax Return for Real Estate Investment Trusts.

OMB Number: 1545-1004.

Form Number: 1120-REIT.

Abstract: Form 1120-REIT is filed by a corporation, trust, or association electing to be taxed as a real estate investment trust in order to report its income and deductions and to compute its tax liability. IRS uses Form 1120-REIT to determine whether the income, deductions, credits, and tax liability have been correctly reported.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 363.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 127 hours, 28 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 46,268.