

submissions will be gladly accepted. A response to timely preapplications will be communicated by April 18, 1997. The deadline for receipt of formal applications is June 18, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 97-05 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, ER-17, Division of Energy Biosciences, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, Attn: Program Notice 97-05. Fax submissions are acceptable, Fax Number (301) 903-1003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Pat Snyder, Division of Energy Biosciences, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, ER-17, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone (301) 903-2873; E-mail pat.snyder@oer.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Before preparing a formal application, potential applicants should submit a brief preapplication, which consists of two to three pages of narrative describing research objectives. These will be reviewed relative to the scope and the research needs of the Energy Biosciences program. The Energy Biosciences program has the mission of generating *fundamental* biological information about plants and non-medical related microorganisms that can provide support for future energy related biotechnologies. The objective is to pursue *basic* biochemical, genetic and physiological investigations that may contribute towards providing alternate fuels, petroleum replacement products, energy conservation measures as well as other technologies such as phytoremediation related to DOE programs. Areas of interest include bioenergetic systems, including photosynthesis; control of plant growth and development, including metabolic, genetic, and hormonal and ambient factor regulation, metabolic diversity, ion uptake, transport and accumulation, stress physiology and adaptation; genetic transmission and expression; plant-microbial interactions, plant cell wall structure and function; lignocellulose degradative mechanisms; mechanisms of fermentations, genetics of neglected microorganisms, energetics and membrane phenomena; thermophile (molecular basis of high temperature tolerance); microbial interactions; and one-carbon metabolism, which is the basis of biotransformations such as methanogenesis. The objective is to discern and understand basic mechanisms and principles.

Funds are expected to be available for new grant awards in FY 1998. The

magnitude of these funds available and the number of awards which can be made will depend on the budget process. The awards made during FY 1996 averaged close to \$100,000 per year, mostly for a three-year duration. The principal purpose in using preapplications at this time is to reduce the expenditure of time and effort of all parties. Information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures may be found in the 10 CFR Part 605 and the Guide. The Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program for formal submissions and copies of 10 CFR Part 605 are available from U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, ER-17, Division of Energy Biosciences, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290. Telephone requests may be made by calling (301) 903-2873. Instructions for preparation of an application are included in the application guide. Electronic access to ER's Financial Assistance Guide is possible via the Internet using the following Web site address: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 17, 1996.

John R. Clark,
*Associate Director for Resource Management,
Office of Energy Research.*

[FR Doc. 96-33196 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[FERC-592]

Agency Information Collection Under Review by the Office of Management and Budget

December 24, 1996.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of request submitted for review to the Office of Management and Budget.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has submitted the energy information collection listed in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

(Pub. L. 104-13). Any interested person may file comments on the collection of information directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission, as explained below. The Commission did not receive any public comments in response to an earlier Federal Register notice of September 18, 1996 (61 FR 49121-49122).

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before January 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Commission Desk Officer, 726 Jackson Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503. A copy of the comments should also be sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Division of Information Services, Attention: Mr. Michael Miller, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415 and by e-mail at mmiller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description: The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review contains:

1. Collection of Information: FERC-592, "Marketing Affiliates of Interstate Pipelines".
2. Sponsor: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
3. Control No.: 1902-0157. The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three year extension of these mandatory collection requirements.
4. Necessity of Collection of Information: Submission of the information is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing provisions of the Natural Gas Policy Act and the Natural Gas Act (NGA). The Commission monitors the information maintained by interstate natural gas pipeline for transactions of transportation, sales, and storage activities between the pipelines and their marketing affiliates. The information is used to deter undue discrimination by pipeline companies in favor of their marketing affiliates. The information is also used by non-affiliated shippers or others (such as state commissions) to determine whether they have been harmed by affiliate preference and, in some cases, to prepare evidence for formal proceedings following the filing of a complaint. Additionally, pipelines provide 24-hour electronic access of this information to any interested party.

5. Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises approximately 60 interstate natural gas pipelines.

6. Estimated Burden: 3,500 total burden hours, 60 respondents, 60 responses annually, 58.3 hours per response (average).

Statutory Authority: Sections 311, 501 and 504 of the Natural Gas Policy Act (15 U.S.C. 3301-3432) (P.L. 95-621) and Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16 and 20 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA). (15 U.S.C. 717-717w).

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-33111 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[FERC-585]

Agency Information Collection Under Review by the Office of Management and Budget

December 24, 1996.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of request submitted for review to the Office of Management and Budget.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has submitted the energy information collection listed in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13). Any interested person may file comments on the collection of information directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission, as explained below. The Commission did not receive any public comments in response to an earlier Federal Register notice of August 12, 1996 (61 FR 41779-41780).

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before January 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Commission Desk Officer, 726 Jackson Place NW., Washington, DC 20503. A copy of the comments should also be sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Division of Information Services, 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 and by e-mail at mmiller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description: The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review contains:

1. Collection of Information: FERC-585, "Reporting of Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans under PURPA 206."

2. Sponsor: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3. Control No.: 1902-0138. The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three year extension of these mandatory collection requirements.

4. Necessity of Collection of Information: Submission of the information is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing provisions of Section 206 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1979 (PURPA). Section 206, Continuance of Service, of PURPA, Pub.L. 95-617, 92 Stat. 3117 added to the Federal Power Act (FPA) Section 202, subsection (g) requiring the Commission to establish rules to require each public utility to report to the Commission and appropriate State regulatory authorities: (1) any anticipated shortage of electric energy or capacity which would affect the utility's ability to serve its customers; and (2) submit and periodically revise, contingency plans respecting shortages of electric energy or capacity which would equitably accommodate service to both direct retail customers and those served by utilities supplied at wholesale by the public utility.

The Commission uses the contingency plan information to evaluate and formulate appropriate options for action in the event of an anticipated shortage is reported or materializes. If the contingency plan data is not provided, the statutory provisions of the FPA and PURPA will not have been complied with, and information will not be available to assess whether utilities have planned for shortage conditions and/or developed plans with due consideration for equitable customer treatment, as required by the established statute.

The Commission also uses this information to ensure itself and firm power wholesale customers that both are kept informed about utility contingency plans and anticipated shortages of energy and capacity and to ensure that direct and indirect customers would be treated without undue prejudice or disadvantage during actual shortages.

5. Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises approximately 110 public utilities. In the normal course of a public utility's operations, contingency plans are prepared and usually

reviewed and updated periodically. However, the burden on each utility will vary primarily with respect to the number and size of wholesale customers and utility system customers supplied by the reporting utility. The number of respondents is based on the actual number of responses that were received by the Commission over the last three years.

6. Estimated Burden: 511 total burden hours, 7 respondents, 7 responses annually, 73 hours per response. The average annual burden hours is the weighted average of burden hours required for updating contingency plans (50 hours) per response ¹) and for reporting of anticipated shortages (100 hours per response ¹).

Statutory Authority: Sections 206 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601) (P.L. 95-617) and Section 202, of the Federal Power Act (FPA). (16 U.S.C. 824a(g)).

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-33112 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER97-360-000]

American Energy Solutions, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order

December 24, 1996.

American Energy Solutions, Inc. (AESI) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which AESI will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions as a marketer. AESI also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, AESI requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by AESI.

On December 5, 1996, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Applications, Office of Electric Power Regulation, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by AESI should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214).

Absent a request for hearing within this period, AESI is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or

¹ Rounded off.