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Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-24392 Filed 9-10-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-394-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

September 4, 1998.

Take notice that on September 1, 1998, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) tendered for filing to become part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1, certain revised tariff sheets listed on Appendix A attached to the filing, with an effective date of November 1, 1998.

Transco states that the purpose of the instant filing is to (1) implement new Rate Schedules WSS-Open Access (Washington Storage Service-Open Access) and WSS-Open Access-R (Released Washington Storage Service-Open Access) (2) modify the General Terms and Conditions to provide for storage transfers between Rate Schedules WSS-Open Access and ISS (3) modify Rate Schedule WSS to reflect outdated information regarding injected base gas requirements and the designed ratio of injected base gas requirements to top gas storage capacity (4) modify language in Rate Schedule ISS to enable that portion of the Washington Storage Field dedicated to Part 284 service to be utilized for ISS service upon authorization of the conversion and (5) revise the revenue sharing provision in Rate Schedule ISS to include Buyers under Rate Schedule WSS-Open Access.

Transco states that it is serving copies of the instant filing to its affected customers and interested State Commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be

taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-24395 Filed 9-10-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6159-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; StarTrack Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): StarTrack Program, EPA ICR Number 1825.01. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Marge Miranda, U.S. EPA Region 1, JFK Federal Building—Mailcode SPE, Boston, MA 02203. Interested persons may obtain a copy without charge by calling Marge Miranda at 617/565-1002. The ICR will be available on the StarTrack website at <http://www.epa.gov/region01/steward/startrack>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marge Miranda, 617/565-1002 or David W. Guest, Esq., 617/565-3348. Fax number: 617/565-4939

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those that choose to participate in the full-scale StarTrack Program.

Title: StarTrack Program.

Abstract: U.S. EPA's New England Region office (Boston, MA), in conjunction with participating states and, in some cases, local agencies, is developing a third-party certification system for environmental performance as part of its StarTrack Program. Participants in StarTrack will develop, demonstrate, and/or test compliance

tools and principles associated with third-party certification of environmental performance. The goal of the program is to expand the use of compliance and environmental management systems to improve protection of the environment, increase the public's understanding of a company's environmental performance, and further promote efficient use of public and private resources.

StarTrack is one of many reinvention initiatives within EPA. EPA's reinvention philosophy is focused on improving environmental results while allowing flexibility in how the improved results are achieved; sharing information and decision-making with all stakeholders; creating market place incentives for compliance with environmental requirements; and lessening the red-tape and paperwork burden of complying with environmental requirements.

Reinventing environmental protection means addressing the everyday inefficiencies and limitations associated with environmental regulations and managing for better environmental results. It includes designing and testing fundamentally new systems, such as those encouraged in StarTrack, and considering alternative approaches to address environmental challenges.

In each year of participation in StarTrack, a company agrees to audit its environmental compliance and management system and to prepare and publish a comprehensive environmental performance report. During every third year of participation, the company will have its compliance and management system audit results reviewed and certified by an independent third party. Follow-up certification may be required on a more frequent basis for facilities not meeting full certification requirements.

To participate, a company must have an established compliance auditing program and a demonstrated commitment to compliance, pollution prevention, and continuous improvement of environmental performance.

Applicants to the program must submit information addressing the selection factors (commitment to compliance, continuous improvement, and pollution prevention), using examples, quantitative data, and existing documentation, where applicable. An applicant may submit information such as a compliance audit protocol, auditors' qualifications, and a sample of previous audit findings and corrective action plans to support a claim to an established compliance

auditing program. The facility should have an acceptable compliance history including no open or recent major enforcement actions.

Upon acceptance to the program, the participant will sign a Letter of Commitment with the EPA Region, participating state regulatory agencies, and participating local regulatory agencies. Facilities renewing their status as a StarTrack company after their first year will not need to re-apply to the program, but will need to sign a Letter of Commitment for the new year of participation. The participant will be required to submit several reports documenting required StarTrack activities throughout the 12-month period of participation. It is ultimately the responsibility of the StarTrack facility to ensure that the following required documents are submitted to EPA in a timely fashion: audit workplans, reports and corrective action plans for all compliance and EMS audits; third party certifier reports and certifications; the facility improvement plan (in response to the certification report); and an annual environmental performance report.

Application to StarTrack is voluntary. Information submitted as part of the requirements for ongoing participation in the program (e.g., EMS and compliance audits, status reports, etc.) is mandatory to maintain StarTrack participatory status and to obtain the Program benefits.

EPA shall treat information claimed as confidential business information (CBI) in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR part 2. If the participant fails to claim the information as confidential upon submission, it may be made available to the public without further notice. EPA cannot guarantee that information submitted pursuant to this agreement and claimed as confidential will be immune from disclosure to a requester under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Participating state agencies will maintain CBI confidentiality to the extent allowed by relevant state law. Note that some state laws provide for a greater degree of access to and narrower protections for information considered confidential under federal law.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary

for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) evaluate 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; (iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: It is estimated that approximately 50 facilities may voluntarily apply to StarTrack annually in Region 1, and as many as 250 if the program were to be expanded to other EPA Regions. EPA estimates that 35 facilities may satisfy the requirements for participation in the StarTrack Program. An estimated 36 hours per facility will be expended to provide EPA with data for application to StarTrack. This burden hour estimate translates to a cost of approximately \$1,127.88 per facility [\$31.33/hour times 36 hours] and a total cost to industry of approximately \$56,394 [\$1,127.88 per facility times 50 facilities].

During those years of participation when third-party certification is not required, facilities will expend a total of 156 hours preparing all documents and conducting all activities required under the program. This represents a cost of \$4,887.48 per facility [\$31.33/hour times 156 hours] and a total cost to industry of \$171,061.80 [\$4,887.48 per facility times 35 facilities]. Total capital and start-up costs may vary based on the degree to which participants already conduct the required activities at their facilities.

In those years requiring third party certification, facilities will expend an additional 67 hours for conducting all the associated activities. This represents an additional cost to industry of \$7,481.89 per facility [67 hours times \$111.67/hour] and a total cost to industry of \$261,866.15 [35 facilities times \$7,481.89]. (For 1998, program participants will commit for one year. Continued participation will be considered once all first year project tasks are completed and have been evaluated. Triennial third-party certification will be implemented, if appropriate, in the adoption of any agreement for continuing participation.)

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: August 19, 1998.

Thomas D'Avanzo,

Acting Chief, Assistance and Pollution Prevention Office.

[FR Doc. 98-24775 Filed 9-10-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5495-4]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared August 10, 1998 Through August 14, 1998 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the OFFICE OF FEDERAL ACTIVITIES AT (202) 564-7167. An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 10, 1998 (62 FR 17856).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-L65293-00 Rating EC2, Upper Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Based Lands Management Plan, Implementation, Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, ID, MT, WY, NV and UT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with these issues: (1) the lack of adequate provisions to identify and protect high quality waters and aquatic habitats, (2) the uncertainty with how impaired waters will be addressed, (3) the uncertainty with the nature of restoration and conservation efforts and their associated impacts, (4) the lack of