comments concerning the collecting of consumer data to determine the value consumers place on clothes washer attributes, such as cycle options, door placement, temperature options, etc. The information collection request describes the nature of the information collection and the expected burden and cost.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted by December 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to: Department of Energy, Attn: Bryan Berringer, Office of Codes and Standards (EE–43), 1J–018/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Berringer, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE–431, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121, (202) 586–0371, E-mail: Bryan.Berringer@HQ.DOE.GOV

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Collection title: Proposed Clothes Washer Consumer Impact Analysis.

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: N/A.

Abstract: OCS is collecting consumer data to determine the value consumers place on clothes washer attributes, such as cycle options, door placement, temperature options, etc. Legislation requires that ''the Secretary consider, among other factors, * * * if any lessening of the utility or performance of the products is likely to result from the imposition of the standard,'' (42 U.S.C. 6295(o)(2)(B)(I)(IV)). OCS will analyze the data to determine if the new efficiency standard negatively impacts any of the attributes highly valued by consumers.

OCS will hire a marketing research firm that will collect clothes washer consumer data in a two-phase process. In the first phase, the research firm will interview 10 focus groups comprised of 8–10 individuals (sample of 100 respondents) to be held at five different geographic sites in the United States (the exact sites for holding the focus groups has yet to be determined). The focus groups will refine the initial list of 32 clothes washer attributes that were developed by OCS with input from manufacturers, trade groups, and other stakeholders. The goal is to refine the initial list to 8–12 attributes for use in a conjoint analysis survey that will be given to a representative sample of 500 respondents at five sites in the United States (sites-to-be-determined). Conjoint analysis is a method that permits OCS to identify the value a respondent places on a particular attribute of a clothes washer. This utility analysis is accomplished through a trade-off procedure in which the respondents are asked to give up various attribute levels to achieve other attribute levels. The attributes data are collected through personal interviews with the respondents interacting with a pre-programmed microcomputer. A company that specializes in conjoint analysis will be hired to complete the survey and provide a report to OCS summarizing the findings. Survey respondents will be obtained through intercepts in shopping malls.

Current Actions: OCS is proposing a new information collection and is requesting comment on the proposal.

Type of request: Approval of new collection.

Type of respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated number of respondents: 600.

Estimated burden hours per respondent: 2 hours.

Frequency of response: 1.

Estimated total reporting burden: 1,200 hours.

Estimate cost burden to respondents: No monetary burden.

Request for comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of OCS; (2) proposed method for determining the value consumers place on clothes washer attributes; and (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 29, 1998.

Dan W. Reicher,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 98–26592 Filed 10–2–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Modification; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: Proposed modification; Comment request.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed modification of the criteria used to select those companies that must file Form EIA–28, the ''Financial Reporting System.''

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 4, 1998. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below of your intention to do so as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Gregory P. Filas, Energy Information Administration, EI–62, Financial Analysis Team, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586–1347; e-mail greg.filas@eia.doe.gov; FAX (202) 586–9753.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Mr. Filas at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. 95–91), the Energy Information Administration (EIA) is obliged to carry out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program. As part of this program, EIA collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates data and information related to energy resource reserves, production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs.

The EIA, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden (required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, title 44, U.S.C. Chapter 35), conducts a presurvey consultation program to provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing reporting forms. This program helps EIA to prepare data requests in the desired format, minimize reporting burden, develop clearly understandable reporting forms, and assess the impact of collection requirements on respondents. Also, EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

II. Current Actions

Under Pub. L. 95–91, section 205(h), the Administrator of the EIA is required to ''identify and designate'' the major energy companies who must annually file Form EIA–28 (the ''Financial Reporting System'' (FRS)) in order to ensure that the data collected provide ''a statistically accurate profile of each line of commerce in the energy industry in the United States.'' Traditionally, the Administrator has chosen to use a set of criteria to assist him in identifying the reporting companies.

The EIA is proposing to modify the criteria currently used to determine which companies must file Form EIA–28, and is seeking comments on this proposal. This is *not* a proposal to change or modify the currently approved form.

The first criterion which must currently be met for a company to qualify as a FRS respondent is that the company be among the top 50 U.S.-based companies ranked by worldwide production of crude oil (the ''Top-50 Requirement''). The second FRS selection criterion requires that the company account for 1 percent or more of U.S. production or reserves of oil, natural gas, coal, uranium, or 1 percent or more of U.S. refining capacity or refined product sales volume.

The current set of FRS respondent company selection criteria ensures that oil and gas producing companies who have grown to account for more than 1 percent of U.S. production or reserves, and vertically-integrated refiners who have acquired more than 1 percent of U.S. refining capacity are added to the survey group. The Top-50 Requirement ensures that only integrated refiners (and not non-integrated independent refiners) are added to the survey group.

Because vertically integrated refiners have traditionally owned the majority of U.S. refining assets, the Top-50 Requirement did not, until recently, significantly limit FRS coverage of the U.S. refining industry. At year-end 1986, the FRS companies accounted for 76 percent of U.S. refining capacity. At year-end 1996, the FRS companies (including their unconsolidated joint ventures) accounted for 73 percent of U.S. refining capacity.

However, the U.S. refining industry has been undergoing a process of restructuring, cost-cutting and consolidation over the past several years, and the trend in industry acquisitions, divestitures, and alliances has sharply accelerated. In recent months, the EIA has been seeing a significant drop in FRS survey coverage for the U.S. refining industry, as well as evidence of newly emerging patterns of U.S. refining industry organization. A number of FRS companies have sold their U.S. refining assets, including assets previously committed to joint ventures.

These rapid industry changes have, and will continue, to substantially reduce the ability of EIA's FRS to meet its legislative requirement to provide ''* * * a statistically accurate profile * * *'' of the U.S. refining line of commerce for the 1998 reporting year and beyond, unless the respondent company selection criteria for Form EIA–28 are modified.

Accordingly, the EIA is proposing to eliminate the Form EIA–28 Top-50 Requirement. Additionally, the EIA is proposing to eliminate the thresholds on coal and uranium production. EIA also proposes to clarify that the U.S.-based companies selected for the survey group, or their parent companies, must be publicly-traded companies. With these changes, the simplified FRS respondent selection criteria will allow for the inclusion of large, publicly-traded, non-integrated independent refiners.

As proposed, the revised respondent company selection criteria for the Form EIA–28 will be that, in order to be included in the survey group, the U.S.-based company (or its parent company) must be publicly-traded, and must account for 1 percent or more of U.S. production or reserves of crude oil (including natural gas liquids) or natural gas, or 1 percent or more of U.S. refining capacity or refined product sales volume.

The proposed deletion of the Top-50 Requirement will have the effect of adding large non-integrated independent refining companies to the Form EIA–28 survey group. This addition will result in EIA's maintaining its compliance with the requirement of Pub. L. 95–91, section 205(h) relative to the U.S. petroleum refining industry. More particularly, the addition of large, U.S. non-integrated refining companies not already identified by the current FRS selection criteria would result in the FRS respondent companies (including their joint ventures) constituting an expected 87 percent of domestic refining capacity during 1998, instead of the 60 percent (or less) industry representation anticipated under the current respondent company selection criteria.

III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties including FRS data users should comment on the actions discussed in item II. Given that this reporting requirement relies heavily on company financial data, and relates to accounting practices familiar to those developing annual report and/or Securities and Exchange Commission filings, coordination with respondent company Controller offices is recommended. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. The comments also will become a matter of public record.

Also, each year the Form EIA–28 respondent companies provide estimates of the reporting burden associated with their annual filings. Reporting burden includes the total time expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information requested on Form EIA–28. Since the Form EIA–28 respondent companies include some of the largest worldwide energy companies, reporting burden varies considerably among respondents—depending on the geographic extent of their operations, the complexity of the company, the extent of their automation, and the number of lines of business in which they are engaged. The currently reported average burden for the more complex respondent companies is approximately 1050 hours per year, ranging from a high of 2,200 hours to a low of 440 hours. Less complex Form EIA–28 respondent companies, such as those primarily involved in only one energy-related line of business, have estimated their annual reporting burden at an average of 180 hours, ranging from a high of 400 hours to a low of 35 hours. If a company has questions about what level of Form EIA–28 reporting burden it might experience, please contact Jon Rasmussen at (202) 586-1449 (or e-mail: jon.rasmussen@eia.doe.gov) for additional information. If a company is interested in learning of steps it might take to reduce its current reporting burden, please contact Greg Filas at (202) 586–1347 (or e-mail: greg.filas@eia.doe.gov).

Statutory Authority: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, title 44, U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Issued in Washington, DC September 29, 1998.

Jay H. Casselberry,

Agency Clearance Officer, Statistics and Methods Group, Energy Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 98–26593 Filed 10–2–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98–774–000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

September 29, 1998.

Take notice that on September 11, 1998, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030–0146, filed in Docket No CP98–679–000, a request pursuant to Section 157.205, 157.212 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211 and 157.216) for authorization to relocate various points of delivery to Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania (CPA) and to abandon 6.6 miles of 8-, 4- and 2-inch pipeline located in McKean County, Pennsylvania, under Columbia's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83–76–000, pursuant to 18 CFR Part 157, Subpart F of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Specifically, Columbia requests that its Corwins Lane point of delivery to CPA be relocated from Columbia's 2-nch Line 4389 to its 8-nch Line 4226 right-of-way. Columbia states that it intends to relocate 145 feet of its 2-inch Line 4389 with 260 feet of 2-inch pipeline under Sections 157.212 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations. Columbia further states that regulation must be installed at the new interconnection of Columbia's 2-inch Line 4389 and 8-inch Line 422, and it is more feasible to have both the regulation and measurement at the same location.

It is further stated that Columbia's Spencer point of delivery (CPA POD 13) would be relocated from Columbia's 8-inch Line 4008 to its 8-inch Line 4226. It is stated that Line 4226 is parallel to Line 4008 and shares the same right-of-way. The replacement tap would be located approximately 5 feet from the existing tap, it is stated.

Columbia states that in addition to the relocation of the two points of delivery, Columbia intends to relocate five domestic taps to nine residences from Line 4008 to Line 4226 to allow for the partial abandonment of Line 4008. It is stated that CPA agrees to the relocation at the points of delivery.

Columbia further states that in addition to the relocations, Columbia proposes to abandon approximately 6.5 miles of 8-inch Line 4008 in two sections, 10 feet of 2-inch Line 4397, and 61 feet of 4-inch Line 4168, all located in McKean County, Pennsylvania. Columbia states that there are no shippers or points of delivery associated with the 10 feet of 2-inch Line 4397 pipeline. It is stated that Line 4008 consists of 8-inch coupled pipe in need of replacement and currently serves a mixture of residential customers and two CPA points of delivery (Corwine Lane—CPA POD 15 and Spencer—CPA POD 13). It is also stated that the gas supply for Line 4008 markets ultimately is delivered from parallel Line 4226 to Line 4008 via the Dallas City point of delivery. Columbia states that it would maintain approximately 0.4 mile of Line 4008 which would continue to be served from the Dallas City point of delivery for continuing service to multiple domestic taps. It is indicated that with the abandonment of Line 4168 the Red Rock point of delivery would continue to maintain a gas supply to CPA from Line 4226.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Linwood A. Watson Jr.

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–26533 Filed 10–2–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98–793–000]

Kern River Gas Transmission Company: Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

September 29, 1998.

Take notice that on September 18, 1998, Kern River Gas Transmission (Kern River), 295 Chipeta Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, filed in Docket No. CP98–793–000 a request pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) for authorization to modify its Fillmore and Milford Meter Station in Fillmore and Beaver Counties, Utah, respectively by partially abandoning certain existing facilities and construction and operating appropriate replacement facilities, under Kern River's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP98–2048–000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Kern River proposes to remove the existing 2-inch rotary meters and associated 2-inch regulators, 2-inch relief valve and appurtenances and replacing them with new high-capacity 1-inch turbine meters and appurtenances. It is said that the design delivery capacity of the meter stations would not change as a result of the modifications.

Kern River states that the estimated cost of the facilities would be approximately $11,206 at the Fillmore Meter Station and $11,406 at the Milford Meter Station.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therfor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for