

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), the Office of Codes and Standards (OCS) in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed information collection under the title "Study of Central Air Conditioner Prices." OCS is soliciting comments concerning the collection of data regarding equipment and installation prices for residential unitary air conditioners and heat pumps.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted by January 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to: U.S. Department of Energy, Attn: Kathi Epping, Office of Codes and Standards (EE-43), 1J-018/ FORS, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathi Epping, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Codes and Standards, Mail Station EE-431, Room 1J-018 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-7425, E-mail: Kathi.Epping@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Collection title: Study of Central Air Conditioner Life Cycle Costs.

Form Number: N/A.

Abstract: OCS is undertaking a rulemaking to determine whether the current regulations mandating minimum energy efficiency levels for central air conditioners and heat pumps should be amended. Legislation requires that, in determining whether an energy conservation standard is economically justified, the Secretary shall consider "the savings in operating costs throughout the estimated average life of the covered product . . . compared to any increase in the price of, or in the initial charges for, or maintenance expenses of, the covered products." (42 U.S.C. 6295(o)(2)(B)(i)(II)). As part of this analysis, the Office of Codes and Standards is seeking to survey participants in central air conditioner and heat pump markets to determine current retail unitary equipment prices and installation costs by equipment efficiency level.

The information collection will include contractors participating in the residential unitary equipment market.

Consumers will not be surveyed. Questions will attempt to gather data related to equipment costs, sales volumes, and other information pertinent to the determination of retail prices. Some information does exist and is available to OCS from government and private sources. These sources include:

- Current Industrial Report MA35M(96), U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1997.
- ARI Statistical Profile, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute, 1997.
- U.S. Unitary and Close Control Air Conditioning, Report 11973/2, Building Services Research and Information Association, 1997.
- 1996 Measure Cost Study, California Energy Commission, 1997.
- Forced-air Furnace and Central Air Conditioner Market, Report 164-1, Energy Center of Wisconsin.

This information is not sufficient to determine retail prices for the purposes of this analysis, because most sources (1) disaggregate by capacity rather than efficiency, (2) aggregate on a national rather than regional level, (3) do not differentiate between "deluxe" and standard models, and (4) do not differentiate between the appropriate product classes. OCS is not aware of any source or combination of sources that satisfies all requirements. This information collection request is intended to provide that additional necessary information.

Approximately 250 respondents each will be asked 6-10 questions, and responses will be voluntary. Independent market research firms and consultants will conduct much of the collection on behalf of the Department. Most interviews will be conducted via telephone or facsimile and in person. Responses requiring disclosure of proprietary information will be kept confidential in accordance with Department policy.

Type of request: Approval of new collection.

Type of respondents: Contractors.
Estimated annual number of respondents: 250.

Total annual responses: 250 (one per respondent).

Estimated Burden hours per respondent: 1.5 hours.

Estimated total reporting burden: 375 hours.

Estimated 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 to carry out the mandates of the legislation; (2) the accuracy of DOE's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 23, 1998.

Dan W. Reicher,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 98-31810 Filed 11-27-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. IC99-11-000; FERC Form No. 11]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

November 23, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before January 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form No. 11 "Natural Gas Pipeline Company Quarterly Statement of Monthly Data" (OMB No. 1902-0032) is used by the

Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Sections 10(a), 16 and 21 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), 15 U.S.C. 717-717w, and the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA), 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432. The NGA and NGPA authorize the Commission to prescribe rules and regulations requiring natural gas pipeline companies whose gas was either transported or stored for a fee and exceeds 50 million Dekatherms in each of the three previous calendar years, to submit FERC Form No. 11. The form provides monthly data on a quarterly basis on certain revenue and expenditure items of major pipelines,

and also provides some volume data on their operations.

The filing requirements of the monthly statement for selected revenues, income, and refund obligations, as well as details of operation and maintenance expenses incurred by natural gas companies in connection with transportation, or storage of natural gas are used by the Commission to develop analyses and studies in investigating the reasonableness of the various revenue and cost of service items claimed in Section 4 and 5 of the NGA rate filings. These data also provide an indication of

the current status of pipeline activities and comparisons between pipelines, and are used to measure the financial status of the regulated pipelines as a group.

The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR 260.3 and 385.2011.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

Burden Statement: Public Reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of Respondents Annually	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden Hours Per Response	Total Annual Burden Hours
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)×(2)×(3)
55	4	3	660

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 660 hours divided by 2,080 hours per year times \$109,889 per year equals \$34,868. The cost per respondent is equal to \$634.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

The estimate of cost for respondents is based upon salaries for professional and clerical support, as well as direct and indirect overhead costs. Direct costs include all costs directly attributable to providing this information, such as administrative costs and the cost for information technology. Indirect or overhead costs are costs incurred by an organization in support of its mission. These costs apply to activities which benefit the whole organization rather than any one particular function or activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of

the Commission's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumption used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and, (4) 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 or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-31703 Filed 11-27-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER97-4636-004; Docket No. ER97-4652-004]

New Energy Ventures, L.L.C. NEV East, L.L.C., Notice of Filing

November 23, 1998.

Take notice that on November 17, 1998, the above-mentioned power marketers filed quarterly reports with the Commission in the above-mentioned proceedings for information only. These filings are available for public inspection and copying in the Public Reference Room or on the internet under Records Information Management

System (RIMS) for viewing and downloading.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-31710 Filed 11-27-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-203-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

November 23, 1998.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding commencing at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 1998 and continuing on Friday, December 4, 1998, if necessary, at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426, for the purpose of exploring the possible settlement of the above-referenced docket.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, please contact Sandra J. Delude at (202) 208-