

estimated DOE funds of \$3–4 million. Award is subject to the availability of funds. The issuance of a solicitation will not obligate DOE to make an award. All responsible sources, as indicated above, may submit an application which will be considered by the Government. All interested organizations are invited to submit applications.

Issued in North Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 8, 1999.

Dated: March 8, 1999.

G.W. Johnson,

Head of Contracting Activity.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments on the proposed extension to the EIA–882T, “Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Testing, Evaluation and Research.”

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 17, 1999. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within the 60 days, contact the person identified below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Herbert Miller, Statistics and Methods Group, EI–70, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Mr. Miller may be reached by phone at 202–426–1103, by e-mail (herbert.miller@eia.doe.gov), or by FAX (202–426–1083).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Mr. Miller at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93–275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No.

94–91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) requires the Energy Information Administration (EIA) to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

On June 21, 1993, the EIA–882T, “Generic Clearance of Questionnaire Testing, Evaluation and Research” (OMB No. 1905–0185) was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for three years. Eleven studies were conducted (or proposed to be conducted). The testing activities included several methods: focus group, mail questionnaire, telephone questionnaires, and personal interviews. The main focus of these efforts was pretesting activities to improve questionnaires. A survey was conducted to pretest activities on a new data collection to improve the collection of data on solar thermal collectors and photovoltaic devices. A follow-up study was conducted to see why energy supplies completed most of the questionnaires, after the due date on an energy consumption survey. Another energy consumption survey conducted a pilot study to assess the methodological and performance aspects of the effectiveness of random-digit-dialing (RDD) and computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Also, a telephone survey for evaluating the effectiveness of an effort to improve response on a natural gas survey was conducted. As agreed to between EIA and OMB, OMB was provided a summary of the results of the activities conducted under this generic clearance.

The EIA–882T approval was extended for three years on July 12, 1996, and expires July 31, 1999. During the past

three years, another 8 surveys were conducted under the generic clearance. As requested by OMB, two surveys were conducted that collected information to assess recent changes in electric industry structure and operations and to determine what electric power data the states collect, and the confidentiality provisions of the data collected by the states. EIA conducted roundtable meetings with groups of EIA customers to solicit input on the main themes that should be pursued in our analysis agenda. A study was completed to test the effectiveness of a computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) field activities for a residential survey that was previously conducted through personal interviews. Selected natural gas questions were pretested on a manufacturing survey. A telephone survey was conducted to see if detailed building characteristics can be collected using CATI techniques, and whether energy consumption expenditures can be collected from building owners, managers, or tenants, rather than from the building’s energy suppliers. A related telephone survey was conducted to verify whether data provided by the building owners, managers, or tenants was accurate.

A wide variety of uses were made of the data obtained through this generic clearance. These projects represent significant strides in our efforts to improve the pretesting of EIA surveys. As EIA gains more experience, we hope to broaden involvement in testing, evaluation, and research that meet the criteria for the clearance.

II. Current Actions

EIA plans to request a 3-year extension of the OMB approval for this collection. For each study that EIA intends to undertake under this generic clearance, OMB will be notified, at least two weeks in advance, and provided with an information copy of the questionnaire (if one is used), and all other materials describing the testing activity.

III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested persons are invited to comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of comments.

General Issues

A. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of

information to or for any agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can be made to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

As a Potential Respondent

A. Public reporting burden for collections under the generic clearance are estimated to average 25 minutes per response. The range for burden varies significantly depending on the particular type of testing activity undertaken. The estimated burden for each response includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose and provide the information.

Please comment on (1) the accuracy of the agency's estimate and (2) how the agency could minimize the burden of collecting this information, including the use of information technology.

B. The agency estimates respondents will incur no additional costs for reporting other than the hours required to complete the collection. What is estimated: (1) total dollar amount annualized for capital and start-up costs; and (2) recurring annual costs of operation and maintenance, and purchase of services associated with these data collections?

C. Does any other Federal, state, or local agency collect similar information? If so, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the method of collection.

As a Potential User

A. Are there alternate sources for the information and are they useful? If so, what are their deficiencies and/or strengths?

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the form. They also will become a matter of public record.

Statutory Authority: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Issued in Washington, D.C. March 9, 1999.

Jay H. Casselberry,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-235-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

March 10, 1999.

Take notice that on March 3, 1999, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-0146, filed in Docket No. CP99-235-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211) for authorization to construct and operate the facilities necessary to establish an additional point of delivery to an existing customer, under Columbia's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-76-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The application may be viewed on the web at www.ferc.fed.us. Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Columbia states that the estimated cost to establish the new point of delivery is approximately \$150 and will be treated as an O&M expense. The name of the customer is Mountaineer Gas Company (MGC). The location of the new point of delivery is in Wetzel County, West Virginia. The estimated quantities of natural gas to be delivered at the new point of delivery is 1.5 Dth/Day-150 Dth/Annually. The end use of the gas is residential.

Columbia states that the new point of delivery will have no effect on its peak day and annual deliveries, that its existing tariff does not prohibit the addition of new delivery points, and that deliveries will be accomplished without detriment or disadvantage to its other customers and that the total volumes delivered will not exceed total volumes authorized prior to this request.

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 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. Docket No. EL99-43-00]

New York Power Pool; Notice of Filing of Petition for Waiver

March 5, 1999.

Take notice that on February 26, 1999, the Member Systems of the New York Power Pool (NYPP) filed a petition for a waiver of compliance with Version 1.3 of the OASIS Standards and Communications Protocols (S&CP Document), due to be implemented by March 1, 1999.¹

NYPP argues that it is engaged in efforts to: (1) Convert its entire computer based system (including OASIS) to the requirements for a New York Independent System Operator (NY ISO); (2) implement its locational based marginal pricing proposals; and (3) prepare for Y2K problems. NYPP argues that it should be given a waiver from the requirement to comply with Version 1.3 of the OASIS S&CP Document until the NY ISO becomes operational and an OASIS specific to its restructuring process can be brought on line.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing 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). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before March 22, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine 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. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://>

¹ Open Access Same-Time Information System and Standards of Conduct, 84 FERC ¶61,329 at 62,474 (1998).