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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 proposal to change the data collection frequency of the Form EIA-820, Biennial Refinery Report, from biennial to annual.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted by November 15, 1999. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person identified below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Stacey Ungerleider, Energy Information Administration, EI-42, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Stacey Ungerleider may be reached by phone at (202) 586-5130, by e-mail stacey.ungerleider@eia.doe.gov, or by FAX (202) 586-5846.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Stacey Ungerleider 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. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require 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.

The Form EIA-820 is used to collect data on the following items: Fuels consumed for all purposes at the refinery; refinery receipts of crude oil by method of transportation; current and projected capacities for refineries, specifically operable atmospheric crude oil distillation capacity, downstream charge capacity, and production capacity; and working and shell storage capacities.

Federal, State, and local governments as well as the private sector use these data to conduct research and to provide relevant and timely analysis on the refinery industry. Data from this survey is published by the Energy Information Administration in the Petroleum Supply Annual Volume I.

II. Current Actions

The Energy Information Administration is requesting a change in the frequency of collection for the Form EIA-820, Biennial Refinery Report. EIA proposes to use the Form EIA-820 to collect data on an annual basis in order to maintain a more accurate, up-to-date database for refinery capacity activity. Annual collection of this data will provide internal and external customers with the data to perform more extensive and accurate trend and feasibility costs analysis. Also, pending new environmental standards for motor gasoline and distillate fuel oil will impact the capability of U.S. refineries to produce new quality products in sufficient volumes to meet consumer demand. EIA's ability to assess this impact requires the most timely data available on refinery capacity. Data on a biennial basis is inadequate to meet this need.

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 an 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. Are the instructions and definitions clear and sufficient? If not, which instructions require clarification?

B. Can information be submitted by the due date?

C. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 2 hours per response. The estimated burden 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.

D. The agency estimates respondents will incur no additional costs for reporting other than the hours required to complete the collection. What is the 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 this data collection?

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

As a Potential User

A. Is the information useful at the levels of detail indicated on the form?

B. For what purpose(s) would the information be used? Be specific.

C. Are there alternate sources for the information and are they useful? If so, what are their weaknesses 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: Sec. 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Issued in Washington, DC, September 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 Nos. RP99-500-000, CP96-178-012 and CP96-809-010

Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

September 9, 1999.

Take notice that on September 2, 1999, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (Maritimes) filed to place into effect FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1 as listed in the form attached as Appendix B to its filing.

Maritime states that it proposes to place its complete FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1 into effect on November 1, 1999, which is consistent with the in-service date specified in the certificate for the Maritimes Phase II facilities. The tariff will allow Maritimes to provide firm or interruptible services to those customers desiring such services at this time as contemplated by the Orders of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission dated July 31, 1998, (84 FERC 61,130 (1998)), and April 14, 1999, (87 FERC 61,061 (1999)).

Maritimes states that with the introduction of Rate Schedule MNLFT, additional conforming tariff changes are required. Specifically, Maritimes proposes to clarify that the MNIT rate for service on the lateral facilities shall be the 100% load factor rate of the applicable rate for the applicable Incremental Lateral. Also, Maritimes proposes to clarify that service under a firm mainline rate schedule does not include service on incrementally priced lateral facilities.

Maritimes states that complete copies of this filing are being mailed to potential customers and interested state commissions. Maritimes states that due to the voluminous nature of Appendix B, copies of this filing with Appendix B deleted are being mailed to all other parties on the Commission's Official Service Lists in the above referenced dockets. Copies of Appendix B will be made available upon request.

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, NE, Washington, DC 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 on or before September 24, 1999. 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. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-613-000]

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America and Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Application

September 9, 1999.

Take notice that on September 7, 1999, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural), 747 East 22nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148, and Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco), P.O. Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77251, filed a joint application with the commission in Docket No. CP99-613-000 pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for permission and approval to abandon four natural gas exchange services, all as more fully set forth in the application which is open to the public for inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Natural and Transco, jointly, propose to abandon three natural gas exchange service performed under (1) Natural's FERC Rate Schedule X-59 and Transco's FERC Rate Schedule X-87; (2) Natural's Rate Schedule X-117 and Transco's Rate Schedule X-230; and (3) Natural's Rate Schedule X-135 and Transco's Rate Schedule X-247. Natural also proposes to abandon its portion of a natural gas exchange service with

Transco performed under Natural's Rate Schedule X-71. Transco has already abandoned in Docket No. CP98-236-000 its portion of the exchange service performed under Transco's Rate Schedule X-94. Natural and Transco state that they no longer require these four exchange services and that by letter agreements dated August 25, 1999, they have agreed to terminate the 1975, 1976, 1980, and 1981 agreements which resulted in the above Rate Schedules.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before September 30, 1999, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in the subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Natural and Transco to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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