Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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 proceeding. 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.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–15394 Filed 6–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP95–194–001, CP95–194–003, CP96–027–000, and CP96–027–001]

Northern Border Pipeline Company and Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Northern Border Project

June 6, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Northern Border Pipeline Company (Northern Border) and Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural) in the above-referenced dockets, collectively referred to as the Northern Border Project.

The FEIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with the mitigating measures we have recommended, would have limited environmental impact and would be an environmentally acceptable action. Most of this impact would occur during construction. The FEIS also evaluates two single system alternatives to the proposals between Harper, Iowa and Chicago, Illinois. The FEIS concludes that either single system alternative would be environmentally preferable to building both projects in that area. The Amarillo system alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative.

The FEIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the Construction and operation of the following facilities:

Northern Border

- About 390.0 miles of new natural gas pipeline;
- About 303,500 horsepower (hp) of new compression;
- 9 new and 1 modified meter stations, 5 new pig Launcher/receivers, 1 new office/ warehouse building, and 16 new and 9 modified valves; and
- 13 new communication towers.

Natural

- About 85.7 miles of new natural gas pipeline;
- About 9,000 hp of new compression; and
- 3 new pig launcher/receivers and 17 new or modified valves.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to transport up to 1,226.3 million cubic feet per day of natural gas from producing regions in Canada and the Williston Basin in Montana and North Dakota to natural gas shippers and local distribution companies in the Midwest, primarily the Chicago area.

The FEIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208–1371.

A limited number of copies are available at this location.

Copies of the FEIS have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208–1088.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–15334 Filed 6–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5838–9]

Toxic Chemicals; PCBs; Submission of ICR No. 1012 to OMB; Information Collection Activities

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of submission to OMB.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) entitled: PCB Disposal Permitting Regulation (EPA ICR No. 1012.06; OMB Control No. 2070–0011) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval pursuant to the OMB procedures in 5 CFR 1320.12. The ICR, which is abstracted below, describes the nature of the information collection and its estimated cost and burden.

The Agency is requesting that OMB renew for 3 years the existing approval for this ICR, which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 1997. A **Federal Register** notice announcing the Agency's intent to seek the renewal of this ICR and the 60-day public comment opportunity, requesting comments on the Agency's intent to renew the ICR and on the ICR contents, was issued on November 12, 1996 (61 FR 58065). EPA did not receive any comments during the comment period.

DATES: Additional comments may be submitted on or before July 14, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY CONTACT: Sandy Farmer at EPA, (202) 260–2740, and refer to EPA ICR No. 1012.06 and OMB Control No. 2070–0011.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, referencing EPA ICR No. 1012.06 and OMB Control No. 2070–0011, to the following addresses: Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regulatory Information Division (Mailcode: 2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

And to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Review Requested: This is a request to renew a currently approved information collection pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12.

ICR Numbers: EPA ICR No. 1012.06; OMB Control No. 2070–0011.

Current Expiration Date: Current OMB approval expires on June 30, 1997.

Title: PCB Disposal Permitting Regulation.

Abstract: Section 6(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) bans polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the environment and directs the Administrator of EPA to promulgate rules to, among other things, prescribe methods for the disposal of PCBs. EPA promulgated rules in 1978 and 1979 that

address disposal requirements. These provisions require owners of alternate disposal technologies, incinerators and chemical waste landfills to submit permit applications to and obtain approvals from EPA. Additionally, EPA prescribes technical and operational criteria that these facilities must meet to qualify for consideration by the Agency. EPA may include in an approval any other requirements or provisions that are necessary to ensure the operation of the facility will not present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment.

To meet its statutory obligations, EPA must obtain sufficient information to conclude that the operation of a disposal facility does not result in an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. EPA requests only the information that the Agency needs to reach a decision to grant or deny an applicant's request for a disposal approval. EPA uses the information submitted by each permit applicant to determine if the applications meet the technical and operational criteria for a disposal facility and to make a finding that the operation of the facility will not result in an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment.

Responses to the collection of information are required in order for respondents to obtain or retain benefits (see 40 CFR parts 761.60, 761.70 and 761.75). Respondents may claim all or part of a notice confidential. EPA will disclose information that is covered by a claim of confidentiality only to the extent permitted by, and in accordance with, the procedures in TSCA section 14 and 40 CFR part 2.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately 334 hours per response for an estimated 32 respondents. These estimates include 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.

No person is required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are displayed in 40 CFR Part 9.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Operators of PCB disposal facilities.

Estimated No. of Respondents: 32.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 10,688 hours.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Changes in Burden Estimates: There is a reduction of 6,232 hours in the total estimated respondent burden as compared with that identified in the Information Collection Request (ICR) most recently approved by OMB, from 16,920 hours currently to an estimated 10,688 hours. The prior ICR assumed an equal number of applications to conduct research and development (R&D) in PCB disposal as applications for commercial disposal of PCBs. However, based on experience gained since the last ICR, EPA's revised calculations now account for the fact that EPA receives twice as many R&D applications as commercial applications. The average burden for R&D applications is only 60 hours, versus 880 hours for commercial applications.

According to the procedures prescribed in 5 CFR 1320.12, EPA has submitted this ICR to OMB for review and approval. Any comments related to the renewal of this ICR should be submitted as described above.

Dated: June 9, 1997.

Richard T. Westlund,

Acting Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 97–15367 Filed 6–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5839–3]

Air Pollution Control; Proposed Actions on Clean Air Act Grants to the South Coast Air Quality Management District

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed determinations with request for comments and notice of opportunity for public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency has made two proposed determinations that reductions in expenditures of non-Federal funds for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) in Diamond Bar, California are a result of non-selective reductions in expenditures. These determinations, when final, will permit the SCAQMD to keep the financial assistance awarded to it by EPA for FY–96, and to be awarded financial assistance for FY–97 by EPA, under section 105(c) of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: Comments and/or requests for a public hearing must be received by EPA at the address stated below by July 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be mailed to: R. Michael Stenburg, Grants and Program Integration Office (Air-8), Air Division, U.S. EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105–3901; FAX (415) 744–1076.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Michael Stenburg, Grants and Program Integration Office (Air-8), Air Division, U.S. EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105–3901 at (415) 744–1182.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of Section 105 of the CAA, EPA provides financial assistance (grants) to the SCAQMD, whose jurisdiction includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties in southern California, to aid in the operation of its air pollution control programs. In FY–96, EPA awarded the SCAQMD $7,084,731, which represented approximately 8.4% of the SCAQMD's budget.

Section 105(c)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. 7405(c)(1), provides that ''[n]o agency shall receive any grant under this section during any fiscal year when its expenditures of non-Federal funds for recurrent expenditures for air pollution control programs will be less than its expenditures were for such programs during the preceding fiscal year. In order for [EPA] to award grants under this section in a timely manner each fiscal year, [EPA] shall compare an agency's prospective expenditure level to that of its second preceding year.'' EPA may still award financial assistance to an agency not meeting this requirement, however, if EPA, ''after notice and opportunity for public hearing, determines that a reduction in expenditures is attributable to a non-selective reduction in the expenditures in the programs of all Executive branch agencies of the applicable unit of Government.'' CAA section 105(c)(2). These statutory requirements are repeated in EPA's implementing regulations at 40 CFR 35.210(a).

In its FY–96 section 105 application, the SCAQMD projected expenditures of non-Federal funds for recurrent expenditures (or its maintenance of effort (MOE)) of $78,452,571. This MOE would have been sufficient to meet the MOE requirements of the CAA, i.e. it