SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL RULES

PART 1—RULES OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

Subpart A—Definitions and Rules of Construction

Sec.

AUTHORITY: Dept. of Energy Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7101–7352; E.O. 12009, 3 CFR 142 (1978); Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. Ch. 5.

Subpart A—Definitions and Rules of Construction

§ 1.101 Definitions.

The definitions set forth in this section apply for purposes of this chapter, except as otherwise provided in this chapter:

(a) *Commission* means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(b) *Chairman* means the Chairman of the Commission.

(c) *Commissioner* and *Member* mean a member of the Commission.

(d) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Commission.

(e) *Executive Director* means the Executive Director of the Commission.

(f) *General Counsel* means the General Counsel of the Commission.

(g) *DOE Act* means the Department of Energy Organization Act.

(h) *DOE* means the Department of Energy.

(i) *Administrative law judge* means an officer appointed under section 3105 of title 5 of the United States Code.

(j) *Attorney* means an attorney admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States or the highest court of any State, territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or any other person with the requisite qualifications to represent others, who acts in a representative capacity for any participant before the Commission.

(k) *State Commission* means the regulatory body of any State or municipality having jurisdiction to regulate rates or charges for the sale of electric energy or natural gas to consumers or for the transportation of oil by pipeline within the State or municipality.

(l) *Oath* includes *affirmation* and *sworn* includes *affirmed*.

[Order 225, 47 FR 19022, May 3, 1982; 48 FR 786, Jan. 7, 1983]

§ 1.102 Words denoting number, gender and so forth.

In determining the meaning of any provision of this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(a) The singular includes the plural;

(b) The plural includes the singular;

(c) The present tense includes the future tense; and

(d) Words of one gender include the other gender.

[Order 225, 47 FR 19022, May 3, 1982]

PART 1b—RULES RELATING TO INVESTIGATIONS

Sec.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 717 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 792 *et seq.*; 49 U.S.C. 60502; 49 A.P. U.S.C. 1–85; 42 U.S.C. 7101–7352; E.O. 12009, 42 FR 46267.

SOURCE: 43 FR 27174, June 23, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1b.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part—

(a) *Formal investigation* means an investigation instituted by a Commission Order of Investigation.

(b) *Preliminary Investigation* means an inquiry conducted by the Commission or its staff, other than a formal investigation.

(c) Investigating officer means the individual(s) designated by the Commission in an Order of Investigation as Officer(s) of the Commission.

(d) *Enforcement Hotline* is a forum in which to address quickly and informally any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction concerning natural gas pipelines, oil pipelines, electric utilities and hydroelectric projects.

[43 FR 27174, June 23, 1978, as amended by Order 602, 64 FR 17097, Apr. 8, 1999]

§ 1b.2 Scope.

This part applies to investigations conducted by the Commission but does not apply to adjudicative proceedings.

§ 1b.3 Scope of investigations.

The Commission may conduct investigations relating to any matter subject to its jurisdiction.

§ 1b.4 Types of investigations.

Investigations may be formal or preliminary, and public or private.

§ 1b.5 Formal investigations.

The Commission may, in its discretion, initiate a formal investigation by issuing an Order of Investigation. Orders of Investigation will outline the basis for the investigation, the matters to be investigated, the officer(s) designated to conduct the investigation and their authority. The director of the office responsible for the investigation may add or delete Investigating Officers in the Order of Investigation.

§ 1b.6 Preliminary investigations.

The Commission or its staff may, in its discretion, initiate a preliminary investigation. In such investigations, no process is issued or testimony compelled. Where it appears from the preliminary investigation that a formal investigation is appropriate, the staff will so recommend to the Commission.

§ 1b.7 Procedure after investigation.

Where it appears that there has been or may be a violation of any of the provisions of the acts administered by the Commission or the rules, opinions or orders thereunder, the Commission may institute administrative proceedings, initiate injunctive proceedings in the courts, refer matters, where appropriate, to the other governmental authorities, or take other appropriate action.

§ 1b.8 Requests for Commission investigations.

(a) Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, organization, or other Federal or State governmental entity, may request the Commission to institute an investigation.

(b) Requests for investigations should set forth the alleged violation of law with supporting documentation and information as completely as possible. No particular forms or formal procedures are requested.

(c) It is the Commission's policy not to disclose the name of the person or entity requesting an investigation except as required by law, or where such disclosure will aid the investigation.

§ 1b.9 Confidentiality of investigations.

All information and documents obtained during the course of an investigation, whether or not obtained pursuant to subpoena, and all investigative proceedings shall be treated as nonpublic by the Commission and its staff except to the extent that (a) the Commission directs or authorizes the public disclosure of the investigation; (b) the information or documents are made a matter of public record during the course of an adjudicatory proceeding; or (c) disclosure is required by the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. Procedures by which persons submitting information to the Commission during the course of an investigation may specifically seek confidential treatment of information for purposes of Freedom of Information Act disclosure are set forth in 18 CFR part 3b and §1b.20. A request for confidential treatment of information for purposes of Freedom of Information Act disclosure shall not, however, prevent disclosure for law enforcement

purposes or when disclosure is otherwise found appropriate in the public interest and permitted by law.

§ 1b.10 By whom conducted.

Formal Commission investigations are conducted by the Commission or by an individual(s) designated and authorized in the Order of Investigation. Investigating Officers are *officers* within the meaning of the statutes administered by the Commission and are authorized to perform the duties of their office in accordance with the laws of the United States and the regulations of the Commission. Investigating Officers shall have such duties as the Commission may specify in an Order of Investigation.

§ 1b.11 Limitation on participation.

There are no parties, as that term is used in adjudicative proceedings, in an investigation under this part and no person may intervene or participate as a matter of right in any investigation under this part. Section 2.72 of the rules is specifically not applicable to private investigations conducted by the Commission or its staff.

§ 1b.12 Transcripts.

Transcripts, if any, of investigative testimony shall be recorded solely by the official reporter, or by any other person or means designated by the investigating officer. A witness who has given testimony in an investigation shall be entitled, upon written request, to procure a transcript of the witness' own testimony on payment of the appropriate fees, except that in a nonpublic formal investigation, the office responsible for the investigation may for good cause deny such request. In any event, any witness or his counsel, upon proper identification, shall have the right to inspect the official transcript of the witness' own testimony. This provision supersedes §385.1904(b) of this chapter.

[43 FR 27174, June 23, 1978, as amended by Order 225, 47 FR 19054, May 3, 1982]

§ 1b.13 Powers of persons conducting formal investigations.

Any member of the Commission or the Investigating Officer, in connection with any formal investigation ordered by the Commission, may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, contracts, agreements or other records relevant or material to the investigation.

§ 1b.14 Subpoenas.

(a) Service of a subpoena upon a person named therein shall be made be the investigating officer (1) by personal delivery, (2) by certified mail, (3) by leaving a copy thereof at the principle office or place of business of the person to be served, (4) or by delivery to any person designated as agent for service or the person's attorney.

(b) At the time for producing documents subpoenaed in an investigation, the subpoenaed party shall submit a statement stating that, if true, such person has made a diligent search for the subpoenaed documents and is producing all the documents called for by the subpoena. If any subpoenaed document(s) are not produced for any reason, the subpoenaed party shall state the reason therefor.

(c) If any subpoenaed documents in an investigation are withheld because of a claim of the attorney-client privilege, the subpoenaed party shall submit a list of such documents which shall, for each document, identify the attorney involved, the client involved, the date of the document, the person(s) shown on the document to have prepared and/or sent the document, and the person(s) shown on the document to have received copies of the document.

§ 1b.15 Non-compliance with compulsory processes.

In cases of failure to comply with Commission compulsory processes, appropriate action may be initiated by the Commission or the Attorney General, including but not limited to actions for enforcement or the imposition of penalties.

§ 1b.16 Rights of witnesses.

(a) Any person who is compelled or requested to furnish documentary evidence or testimony in a formal investigation shall, upon request, be shown

the Commission's Order of Investigation. Copies of Orders of Investigation shall not be furnished, for their retention, to such persons requesting the same except with the express approval of the director of the office responsible for the investigation. Such approval shall not be given unless the director of the office responsible for the investigation, in the director's discretion is satisfied that there exist reasons consistent with the protection of privacy of persons involved in the investigation and with the unimpeded conduct of the investigation.

(b) Any person compelled to appear, or who appears in person at a formal investigation by request or permission of the Investigating Officer may be accompanied, represented and advised by counsel, as provided by §385.2101 of this chapter and these rules, except that all witnesses shall be sequestered and, unless permitted in the discretion of the Investigating Officer, no witness or the counsel accompanying any such witness shall be permitted to be present during the examination of any other witness called in such proceeding. When counsel does represent more than one person in an investigation, for example, where the counsel is counsel to the witness and his employer, said counsel shall inform the Investigating Officer and each client of said counsel's possible conflict of interest in representing that client and, if said counsel appears with a witness giving testimony on the record in an investigation, counsel shall state on the record all persons said counsel represents in the investigation.

(c) Any witness may be accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel as follows:

(1) Counsel for a witness may advise the witness, in confidence, upon his initiative or the witness' with respect to any question, and if the witness refuses to answer a question, then the witness or counsel may briefly state on the record the legal grounds for such refusal.

(2) Where it is claimed that the witness has a privilege to refuse to answer a question on the grounds of self-incrimination, the witness must assert the privilege personally.

(3) Following completion of the examination of a witness, such witness may make a statement on the record and his counsel may on the record question the witness to enable the witness to clarify any of the witness' answers or to offer other evidence.

(4) The Investigating Officer shall take all necessary action to regulate the course of the proceeding to avoid delay and prevent or restrain obstructionist or contumacious conduct or contemptuous language. Such officer may report to the Commission any instances where an attorney or representative has refused to comply with his directions, or has engaged in obstructionist or contumacious conduct or has used contemptuous language in the course of the proceeding. The Commission may thereupon take such further action as the circumstances may warrant, including suspension or disbarment of counsel from further appearance or practice before it, in accordance with §385.2101 of this chapter, or exclusion from further participation in the particular investigation.

(d) Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, in any public formal investigation, if the record shall contain implications of wrongdoing by any person, such person shall have the right to appear on the record; and in addition to the rights afforded other witnesses hereby, he shall have a reasonable opportunity of cross-examination and production of rebuttal testimony or documentary evidence. *Reasonable* shall mean permitting persons as full an opportunity to assert their position as may be granted consistent with administrative efficiency and with avoidance of undue delay. The determinations of reasonableness in each instance shall be made in the discretion of the investigating officer.

[43 FR 27174, June 23, 1978, as amended by Order 225, 47 FR 19054, May 3, 1982]

§1b.17 Appearance and practice before the Commission.

The provisions of subpart U of part 385 of this chapters are specifically applicable to all investigations.

[43 FR 27174, June 23, 1978, as amended by Order 225, 47 FR 19054, May 3, 1982]

§ 1b.18 Right to submit statements.

Any person may, at any time during the course of an investigation, submit documents, statements of facts or memoranda of law for the purpose of explaining said person's position or furnishing evidence which said person considers relevant regarding the matters under investigation.

§ 1b.19 Submissions.

In the event the Investigating Officer determines to recommend to the Commission that an entity be made the subject of a proceeding governed by part 385 of this chapter, or that an entity be made a defendant in a civil action to be brought by the Commission, the Investigating Officer shall, unless extraordinary circumstances make prompt Commission review necessary in order to prevent detriment to the public interest or irreparable harm, notify the entity that the Investigating Officer intends to make such a recommendation. Such notice shall provide sufficient information and facts to enable the entity to provide a response. Within 30 days of such notice, the entity may submit to the Investigating Officer a non-public response, which may consist of a statement of fact, argument, and/or memorandum of law, with such supporting documentation as the entity chooses, showing why a proceeding governed by part 385 of this chapter should not be instituted against said entity, or why said entity should not be made a defendant in a civil action brought by the Commission. If the response is submitted by the due date, the Investigating Officer shall present it to the Commission together with the Investigating Officer's recommendation. The Commission will consider both the Investigating Officer's recommendation and the entity's timely response in deciding whether to take further action.

[Order 711, 73 FR 29433, May 21, 2008]

§ 1b.20 Request for confidential treatment.

Any person compelled to produce documents in an investigation may claim that some or all of the information contained in a particular document(s) is exempt from the mandatory public disclosure requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), is information referred to in 18 U.S.C. 1905, or is otherwise exempt by law from public disclosure. In such case, the person making such claim shall, at the time said person produces the document to the officer conducting the investigation shall also produce a second copy of the document from which has been deleted the information for which the person wishes to claim confidential treatment. The person shall indicate on the original document that a request for confidential treatment is being made for some or all of the information in the document and shall file a statement specifying the specific statutory justification for nondisclosure of the information for which confidential treatment is claimed. General claims of confidentiality are not sufficient. Sufficient information must be furnished for the officer conducting the investigation, or other appropriate official, to make an informed decision on the request for confidential treatment. If the person states that the information comes within the exception in 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) for trade secrets and commercial or financial information, the person shall include a statement specifying why the information is privileged or confidential. If the person filing a document does not submit a second copy of the document with the confidential information deleted, the Officer conducting the investigation may assume that there is no objection to public disclosure of the document in its entirety. The Commission retains the right to make the determination with regard to any claim of confidentiality. Notice of the decision by the investigating Officer or other appropriate official to deny a claim, in whole or in part, and an opportunity to respond shall be given to a person claiming confidentiality no less than 5 days before its public disclosure.

§ 1b.21 Enforcement hotline.

(a) The Hotline Staff may provide information to the public and give informal staff opinions. The opinions given are not binding on the General Counsel or the Commission.

(b) Except as provided for in paragraph (g) of this section, any person

may seek information or the informal resolution of a dispute by calling or writing to the Hotline at the telephone number and address in paragraph (f) of this section. The Hotline Staff will informally seek information from the caller and any respondent, as appropriate. The Hotline Staff will attempt to resolve disputes without litigation or other formal proceedings. The Hotline Staff may not resolve matters that are before the Commission in docketed proceedings.

(c) All information and documents obtained through the Hotline Staff shall be treated as non-public by the Commission and its staff, consistent with the provisions of section 1b.9 of this part.

(d) Calls to the Hotline may be made anonymously.

(e) Any person who contacts the Hotline is not precluded from filing a formal action with the Commission if discussions assisted by Hotline Staff are unsuccessful at resolving the matter. A caller may terminate use of the Hotline procedure at any time.

(f) The Hotline may be reached by calling (202) 502–8390 or 1–888–889–8030 (toll free), by e-mail at *hotline@ferc.gov*, or writing to: Enforcement Hotline, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

(g) Any person affected by either the construction or operation of a certificated natural gas pipeline under the Natural Gas Act or by the construction or operation of a project under the Federal Power Act may seek the informal resolution of a dispute by calling or writing the Commission's Dispute Resolution Service. The Dispute Resolution Service may be reached by calling the DRS Helpline toll-free at 1–877–337–2237, or by e-mail at *ferc.adr@ferc.gov*, or writing to: Dispute Resolution Service, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

(h) Any person who contacts the Dispute Resolution Service Helpline is not precluded from filing a formal action with the Commission if discussions assisted by the Dispute Resolution Service staff are unsuccessful at resolving the matter. A caller may terminate the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures at any time.

[Order 602, 64 FR 17097, Apr. 8, 1999, as amended by Order 647, 69 FR 32438, June 10, 2004; Order 734, 75 FR 21505, Apr. 26, 2010]

PART 1c—PROHIBITION OF ENERGY MARKET MANIPULATION

Sec.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 717–717z; 16 U.S.C. 791–825r, 2601–2645; 42 U.S.C. 7101–7352.

SOURCE: 71 FR 4258, Jan. 26, 2006, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1c.1 Prohibition of natural gas market manipulation.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any entity, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of natural gas or the purchase or sale of transportation services subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission,

(1) To use or employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud,

(2) To make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or

(3) To engage in any act, practice, or course of business that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any entity.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a private right of action.

§ 1c.2 Prohibition of electric energy market manipulation.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any entity, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of electric energy or the purchase or sale of transmission services subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission,

(1) To use or employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud,

(2) To make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or

(3) To engage in any act, practice, or course of business that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any entity.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a private right of action.

PART 2—GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Sec.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS UNDER THE FEDERAL POWER ACT

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS UNDER THE NATURAL GAS ACT

STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY TO IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969

STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY TO IMPLEMENT THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS 11615 AND 11627

RULES OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS UNDER THE NATURAL GAS POLICY ACT OF 1978

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETATION UNDER THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978

STATEMENT OF PENALTY REDUCTION/WAIVER POLICY TO COMPLY WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT FAIRNESS ACT OF 1996

APPENDIX C TO PART 2—NATIONWIDE PROCEEDING COMPUTATION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX ALLOWANCE INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS, PIPELINE AFFILIATES AND PIPELINE PRODUCERS CONTINENTAL U.S.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 601; 15 U.S.C. 717–717w, 3301–3432; 16 U.S.C. 792–825y, 2601–2645; 42 U.S.C. 4321–4361, 7101–7352; Pub. L. No. 109–58, 119 Stat. 594.2.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

§ 2.1 Initial notice; service; and information copies of formal documents.

(a) Whenever appropriate, publication of an initial notice or order in the FEDERAL REGISTER shall be the primary means of informing interested persons and the general public that the proceeding to which the notice or order relates has been instituted before the Commission. The mailing or e-mailing of individual copies shall be confined to that which is required by law, by the Commission's rules and regulations, or by other considerations deemed valid by the Secretary in specific instances.

(1) It is the policy of the Commission to publish notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER upon the institution of the following proceedings before the Commission:

(i) *Natural gas pipeline companies and public utility rate schedules and tariffs.* (A) Initial rate schedule filings and changes in rates schedules proposed by public utilities and changes in rate schedules or tariffs proposed by natural gas pipeline companies, including purchased gas adjustment clauses.

(B) Changes in rates proposed by natural gas pipeline companies for field sales.

(C)–(D) [Reserved]

(E) Tracking rate schedule or tariff filings made pursuant to settlement agreements.

(F) Rate schedule or tariff filings made by natural gas pipeline companies or public utilities in compliance with Commission orders.

(G) Reports of refunds by natural gas pipeline companies and public utilities.

(H) [Reserved]

(I) Complaints against natural gas pipeline companies and public utilities, unless otherwise directed.

(ii) *Interconnections, service and exportation pursuant to the Federal Power Act.* (A) Applications for interconnection and service under section 202(b).

(B)–(C) [Reserved]

(D) Applications pursuant to section 207.

(E) [Reserved]

(iii) *Hydroelectric, Federal Power Act.* (A) Applications for preliminary permits pursuant to section 4(f).

(B) Applications for licenses for constructed or unconstructed projects, or notice of declaration of intention, sections 4(e), 23(a)(b).

(C) Applications for amendment of license, unless otherwise directed.

(D) Application for relicenses or nonpower licenses, or a recommendation for takeover, sections 14 and 15.

(E) Applications for transfer of license, section 8.

(F) Applications for surrender of license, section 6.

(G) Proceeding for revocation or termination of license, sections 6, 13, 26.

(H) Issuance of annual licenses, section 15.

(I) Lands withdrawn pursuant to an application for preliminary permit or license, and the vacation of such land withdrawals, section 24.

(J) Complaints against licensees, unless otherwise directed.

(iv) *Corporate electric.* (A) Applications pursuant to sections 203, 204, of the Federal Power Act, and applications or complaints pursuant to section 305 of the Federal Power Act.

(v) *Accounting, gas and electric.* (A) Applications pursuant to sections 4, 23, 301, and 302 of the Federal Power Act.

(B) Applications pursuant to sections 8 and 9 of the Natural Gas Act.

(vi) *Federal rates.* (A) Application for confirmation and approval of rate schedules for Federal hydroelectric projects.

(vii) *Natural gas pipeline certificates, exportations, and importations, Natural Gas Act.* (A) Applications for exemption under section 1(c).

(B) Applications for authorization to import and export gas under section 3.

(C) Applications for orders directing physical connection of facilities and sale of natural gas under section 7(a).

(D) Applications for permission and approval to abandon under section 7(b).

(E) Applications for permanent certificates under section 7(c).

(F) [Reserved]

(G) Complaints against natural gas pipeline companies, filed by individuals and companies, unless otherwise directed.

(viii)–(ix) [Reserved]

(x) *Environmental statements.* (A) Notice to be published pursuant to Order series 415.

(xi) *Miscellaneous, gas and electric.* (A) Order instituting an investigation in which hearings are fixed or in which an opportunity is given for filing comments or petitions to intervene.

(B) Show cause order, in which hearings are fixed or in which an opportunity is given for filing comments or petitions to intervene.

(C) Order or notice consolidating proceedings for hearing purposes or severing a proceeding formerly consolidated for hearing purposes.

(D) Applications for declaratory order, disclaimers of jurisdiction, or waiver of Commission regulations, unless otherwise directed.

(E) Requests for redesignation pursuant to §3.5(a)(26) of this subchapter, unless otherwise directed.

(F) Requests for extension of time pursuant to §3.75.302(j) of this chapter, unless otherwise directed.

(G) Consolidations and severance pursuant to §375.302(f) of this chapter, unless otherwise directed.

(H) Notice of correction of a document in any of the above categories.

(I) Notice of meetings of advisory committees established by the Commission.

(J) Notices of conferences in docketed rulemaking proceedings.

(K) Proposed penalties under section 31 of the Federal Power Act.

(L) Such other notices or orders as may be submitted by the Secretary for publication.

(2) *Otherwise directed,* as referred to above, shall be interpreted to mean notice given by the discretion of the Secretary.

(b) After notice has been given, the service of formal documents issued in a proceeding shall be confined to the parties of record or their attorneys, and the mailing or e-mailing of information copies shall be confined to that which is required by the Commission's rules and regulations, by courtesy in response to written requests for copies, or by other considerations deemed valid by the Secretary in specific instances.

(Secs. 308, 309; 49 Stat. 858; 16 U.S.C. 825g, 825h; secs. 15, 16; 52 Stat. 829, 830; 15 U.S.C. 717n, 717o)

[Order 211, 24 FR 1345, Feb. 21, 1959, as amended by Order 463, 37 FR 28054, Dec. 20, 1972; 38 FR 3192, Feb. 2, 1973; 44 FR 34941, June 18, 1979; 45 FR 21224, Apr. 1, 1980; Order 541, 57 FR 21733, May 22, 1992; Order 603, 64 FR 26603, May 14, 1999; Order 2002, 68 FR 51115, Aug. 25, 2003; Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§2.1a Public suggestions, comments, proposals on substantial prospective regulatory issues and problems.

(a) The Commission by this policy statement explicitly encourages the public, including those persons subject to regulation by the Commission, to submit suggestions, comments, or proposals concerning substantial prospective regulatory policy issues and problems, the resolution of which will have a substantial impact upon those regulated by the Commission or others affected by the Commission's activities. This policy is intended to serve as a means of advising the Commission on a timely basis of potential significant issues and problems which may come before it in the course of its activities and to permit the Commission an early opportunity to consider argument regarding policy questions and administrative reforms in a general context rather than in the course of individual proceedings.

(b) Upon receipt of suggestions, comments, or proposals pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the Commission shall review the matters raised and take whatever action is deemed necessary with respect to the filing, including, but not limited to, requesting further information from the filing party, the public, or the staff, or prescribing an informal public conference for initial discussion and consultation with the Commission, a Commissioner, or the Staff, concerning the matter(s) raised. In the absence of a notice of proposed rulemaking, any conferences or procedures undertaken pursuant to this section shall not be deemed by the

Commission as meeting the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act with respect to notice of rulemakings, but are to be utilized by the Commission as initial discussions for advice as a means of determining the need for Commission action, investigation or study prior to the issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking to the extent required by the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) A person may not invoke this policy as a means of advocating ex parte before the Commission a position in a proceeding pending at the Commission and any such filing will be rejected. Comments must relate to general conditions in industry or the public or policies or practices of the Commission which may need reform, review, or initial consideration by the Commission.

[Order No. 547, 41 FR 15004, Apr. 9, 1976, as amended by Order 225, 47 FR 19054, May 3, 1982]

§ 2.1b Availability in contested cases of information acquired by staff investigation.

Pursuant to the Commission's authority under the Natural Gas Act, particularly subsection (b) of section 8 thereof, and under the Federal Power Act, particularly subsection (b) of section 301 thereof, upon request by a party to the proceedings, or as required in conjunction with the presentation of a Commission staff case of staff's cross-examination of any other presentation therein, all relevant information acquired by Commission staff, including workpapers pursuant to any staff investigation conducted under sections 8, 10, or 14 of the Natural Gas Act, and sections 301, 304 or 307 of the Federal Power Act, shall, without further order of the Commission, be free from the restraints of said subsection (b) of section 8 of the Natural Gas Act, and subsection (b) of section 301 of the Federal Power Act, regarding the divulgence of information, with respect to any matter hereafter set for formal hearing.

[58 FR 38292, July 16, 1993]

§ 2.1c Policy statement on consultation with Indian tribes in Commission proceedings.

(a) The Commission recognizes the unique relationship between the United States and Indian tribes as defined by treaties, statutes, and judicial decisions. Indian tribes have various sovereign authorities, including the power to make and enforce laws, administer justice, and manage and control their lands and resources. Through several Executive Orders and a Presidential Memorandum, departments and agencies of the Executive Branch have been urged to consult with federally-recognized Indian tribes in a manner that recognizes the government-to-government relationship between these agencies and tribes. In essence, this means that consultation should involve direct contact between agencies and tribes and should recognize the status of the tribes as governmental sovereigns.

(b) The Commission acknowledges that, as an independent agency of the federal government, it has a trust responsibility to Indian tribes and this historic relationship requires it to adhere to certain fiduciary standards in its dealings with Indian tribes.

(c) The Commission will endeavor to work with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis, and will seek to address the effects of proposed projects on tribal rights and resources through consultation pursuant to the Commission's trust responsibility, the Federal Power Act, the Natural Gas Act, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, section 32 of the Public Utility Holding Company Act, the Interstate Commerce Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and in the Commission's environmental and decisional documents.

(d) As an independent regulatory agency, the Commission functions as a neutral, quasi-judicial body, rendering decisions on applications filed with it, and resolving issues among parties appearing before it, including Indian tribes. Therefore, the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and the Commission's rules concerning off-the-record communications, as well as the nature of the Commission's licensing and certificating processes and of the

Commission's review of jurisdictional rates, terms and conditions, place some limitations on the nature and type of consultation that the Commission may engage in with any party in a contested case. Nevertheless, the Commission will endeavor, to the extent authorized by law, to reduce procedural impediments to working directly and effectively with tribal governments.

(e) The Commission, in keeping with its trust responsibility, will assure that tribal concerns and interests are considered whenever the Commission's actions or decisions have the potential to adversely affect Indian tribes or Indian trust resources.

(f) The Commission will seek to engage tribes in high-level meetings to discuss general matters of importance, such as those that uniquely affect the tribes. Where appropriate, these meetings may be arranged for particular tribes, by region, or in some proceedings involving hydroelectric projects, by river basins.

(g) The Commission will strive to develop working relationships with tribes and will seek to establish procedures to educate Commission staff about tribal governments and cultures and to educate tribes about the Commission's various statutory functions and programs. To assist in this effort, the Commission is establishing the position of tribal liaison. The tribal liaison will provide a point of contact and a resource for tribes for any proceeding at the Commission.

(h) Concurrently with this policy statement, the Commission is issuing certain new regulations regarding the licensing of hydroelectric projects. In this connection, the Commission sets forth the following additional policies for the hydroelectric licensing process.

(i) The Commission believes that the hydroelectric licensing process will benefit by more direct and substantial consultation between the Commission staff and Indian tribes. Because of the unique status of Indian tribes in relation to the Federal government, the Commission will endeavor to increase direct communications with tribal representatives in appropriate circumstances, recognizing that different issues and stages of a proceeding may call for different approaches, and there are some limitations that must be observed.

(j) The Commission will seek to notify potentially-affected tribes about upcoming hydroelectric licensing processes, to discuss the consultation process and the importance of tribal participation, to learn more about each tribe's culture, and to establish case-by-case consultation procedures consistent with our *ex parte* rules.

(k) In evaluating a proposed hydroelectric project, the Commission will consider any comprehensive plans prepared by Indian tribes or inter-tribal organizations for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a proposed project. The Commission will treat as a comprehensive plan, a plan that:

(1) Is a comprehensive study of one or more of the beneficial uses of a waterway or waterways;

(2) Includes a description of the standards applied, the data relied upon, and the methodology used in preparing the plan; and

(3) Is filed with the Secretary of the Commission. *See generally* 18 CFR 2.19.

[Order 635, 68 FR 46455, Aug. 6, 2003]

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS UNDER THE FEDERAL POWER ACT

AUTHORITY: Sections 2.2 through 2.13, issued under sec. 309, 49 Stat. 858; 16 U.S.C. 825h, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2.2 Transmission lines.

In a public statement dated March 7, 1941, the Commission announced its determination that transmission lines which are not primary lines transmitting power from the power house or appurtenant works of a project to the point of junction with the distribution system or with the interconnected primary transmission system as set forth in section 3(11) of the Act are not within the licensing authority of the Commission, and directed that future applications filed with it for such licenses be referred for appropriate action to the Federal department having supervision over the lands or waterways involved.

[Order 141, 12 FR 8471, Dec. 19, 1947. Redesignated by Order 147, 13 FR 8259, Dec. 23, 1948]

§ 2.4 Suspension of rate schedules.

The Commission approved and adopted on May 29, 1945, the following conclusions as to its powers of suspension of rate schedules under section 205 of the act:

(a) The Commission cannot suspend a rate schedule after its effective date.

(b) The Commission can suspend any new schedule making any change in an existing filed rate schedule, including any rate, charge, classification, or service, or in any rule, regulation, or contract relating thereto, contained in the filed schedule.

(c) Included in such changes which may be suspended are:

(1) Increases.

(2) Reductions.

(3) Discriminatory changes.

(4) Cancellation or notice of termination.

(5) Changes in classification, service, rule, regulation or contract.

(d) Immaterial, unimportant or routine changes will not be suspended.

(e) During suspension, the prior existing rate schedule continues in effect and should not be changed during suspension.

(f) Changes under escalator clauses may be suspended as changes in existing filed schedules.

(g) Suspension of a rate schedule, within the ambit of the Commission's statutory authority is a matter within the discretion of the Commission.

(Natural Gas Act, 15 U.S.C. 717–717w (1976 & Supp. IV 1980); Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a–828c (1976 & Supp. IV 1980); Dept. of Energy Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7101–7352 (Supp. IV 1980); E.O. 12009, 3 CFR part 142 (1978); 5 U.S.C. 553 (1976))

[Order 141, 12 FR 8471, Dec. 19, 1947. Redesignated by Order 147, 13 FR 8259, Dec. 23, 1948, and amended by Order 303, 48 FR 24361, June 1, 1983; Order 575, 60 FR 4852, Jan. 25, 1995]

§ 2.7 Recreational development at licensed projects.

The Commission will evaluate the recreational resources of all projects under Federal license or applications therefor and seek, within its authority, the ultimate development of these resources, consistent with the needs of the area to the extent that such development is not inconsistent with the primary purpose of the project. Reasonable expenditures by a licensee for public recreational development pursuant to an approved plan, including the purchase of land, will be included as part of the project cost. The Commission will not object to licensees and operators of recreational facilities within the boundaries of a project charging reasonable fees to users of such facilities in order to help defray the cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining such facilities. The Commission expects the licensee to assume the following responsibilities:

(a) To acquire in fee and include within the project boundary enough land to assure optimum development of the recreational resources afforded by the project. To the extent consistent with the other objectives of the license, such lands to be acquired in fee for recreational purposes shall include the lands adjacent to the exterior margin of any project reservoir plus all other project lands specified in any approved recreational use plan for the project.

(b) To develop suitable public recreational facilities upon project lands and waters and to make provisions for adequate public access to such project facilities and waters and to include therein consideration of the needs of persons with disabilities in the design and construction of such project facilities and access.

(c) To encourage and cooperate with appropriate local, State, and Federal agencies and other interested entities in the determination of public recreation needs and to cooperate in the preparation of plans to meet these needs, including those for sport fishing and hunting.

(d) To encourage governmental agencies and private interests, such as operators of user-fee facilities, to assist in carrying out plans for recreation, including operation and adequate maintenance of recreational areas and facilities.

(e) To cooperate with local, State, and Federal Government agencies in planning, providing, operating, and maintaining facilities for recreational use of public lands administered by those agencies adjacent to the project area.

(f)(1) To comply with Federal, State and local regulations for health, sanitation, and public safety, and to cooperate with law enforcement authorities in the development of additional necessary regulations for such purposes.

(2) To provide either by itself or through arrangement with others for facilities to process adequately sewage, litter, and other wastes from recreation facilities including wastes from watercraft, at recreation facilities maintained and operated by the licensee or its concessionaires.

(g) To ensure public access and recreational use of project lands and waters without regard to race, color, sex, religious creed or national origin.

(h) To inform the public of the opportunities for recreation at licensed projects, as well as of rules governing the accessibility and use of recreational facilities.

[Order 313, 30 FR 16198, Dec. 29, 1965, as amended by Order 375–B, 35 FR 6315, Apr. 18, 1970; Order 508, 39 FR 16338, May 8, 1974; Order 2002, 68 FR 51115, Aug. 25, 2003]

§ 2.8 [Reserved]

§ 2.9 Conditions in preliminary permits and licenses—list of and citations to "P—" and "L—" forms.

(a) The Commission has approved several sets of standard conditions for normal inclusion in preliminary permits or licenses for hydroelectric developments. In a special situation, of course, the Commission in issuing a permit or license for a project will modify or eliminate a particular article (condition). For reference purposes the sets of conditions are designated as ''Forms''—those for preliminary permits are published in Form P–1, and those for licenses are published in Form L's. There are different Form L's for different types of licenses, and the forms have been revised from time to time. Thus at any given time there will be several series of standard forms applicable to the various vintages of different types of licenses. The forms and their revisions are published in the Federal Power Commission reports and citations thereto are listed below.

(b) New or revised forms may be approved after preparation of this list (which is current as of October, 1975) and consequently do not appear herein. Forms currently in use, including those forms which have not yet appeared in the FPC reports, may be obtained from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20426.

(c) Within each of the categories, unless retired, the last-listed form is the one in use at the date of preparation of the list. The dates in the list represent issuance dates of the orders with which the particular forms were first published, or subsequently revised, in the FPC reports.

P–1: Preliminary Permit, 11 F.P.C. 699 (December 2, 1952), 16 F.P.C. 1303 (December 4, 1956), 54 F.P.C. 1797 (October 31, 1975).

L–1: Constructed Major Project Affecting Lands of the United States, 12 F.P.C. 1262 (September 25, 1953), 32 F.P.C. 71 (July 8, 1964), 54 F.P.C. 1799 (October 31, 1975).

L–2: Unconstructed Major Project Affecting Lands of the United States, 12 F.P.C. 1137 (August 7, 1953), 17 F.P.C. 62 (January 18, 1957), 31 F.P.C. 528 (March 10, 1964), 54 F.P.C. 1808 (October 31, 1975).

L–3: Constructed Major Project Affecting Navigable Waters of the United States, 12 F.P.C. 836 (February 6, 1953), 17 F.P.C. 385 (March 4, 1957), 30 F.P.C. 1658 (November 21, 1963), 32 F.P.C. 1114 (October 15, 1964), 36 F.P.C. 971 (December 6, 1966), 40 F.P.C. 1136 (October 29, 1968), 54 F.P.C. 1817 (October 31, 1975).

L–4: Unconstructed Major Project Affecting Navigable Waters of the United States, 16 F.P.C. 1284 (November 29, 1956), 32 F.P.C. 839 (September 21, 1964), 42 F.P.C. 280 (July 30, 1969), 54 F.P.C. 1824 (October 31, 1975).

L–5: Constructed Major Project Affecting Navigable Waters and Lands of the United States, 12 F.P.C. 1329 (October 23, 1953), 17 F.P.C. 110 (January 13, 1957), 38 F.P.C. 203 (July 26, 1967), 54 F.P.C. 1832 (October 31, 1975).

L–6: Unconstructed Major Project Affecting Navigable Waters and Lands of the United States, 12 F.P.C. 1271 (September 29, 1953), 16 F.P.C. 1127 (October 29, 1956), 31 F.P.C. 284 (February 5, 1964), 34 F.P.C. 1114 (October 7, 1965), 54 F.P.C. 1842 (October 31, 1975).

L–7 (retired): Minor Project Affecting Lands of the United States, 12 F.P.C. 911 (March 30, 1953), 17 F.P.C. 486 (April 2, 1957).

L–8 (retired): Minor-Part Project (Transmission Line), 12 F.P.C. 1017 (June 12, 1953), 41 F.P.C. 217 (March 5, 1969).

L–9: Constructed Minor Project Affecting Navigable Waters of the United States, 32 F.P.C. 577 (August 10, 1964), 54 F.P.C. 1852 (October 31, 1975).

L–10: Constructed Major Project Affecting the Interests of Interstate or Foreign Commerce, 37 F.P.C. 860 (May 9, 1967), 40 F.P.C. 1489 (December 20, 1968), 54 F.P.C. 1858 (October 31, 1975).

L–11: Unconstructed Major Project Affecting the Interests of Interstate or Foreign Commerce, 34 F.P.C. 602 (August 26, 1965), 36 F.P.C. 687 (September 26, 1966), 41 F.P.C. 719 (June 6, 1969), 54 F.P.C. 1864 (October 31, 1975).

L–12: Constructed Minor Project Affecting the Interests of Interstate or Foreign Commerce, 35 F.P.C. 875 (June 3, 1966), 40 F.P.C. 1447 (December 10, 1968), 54 F.P.C. 1871 (October 31, 1975).

L–13: (retired): Unconstructed Major Project Affecting the Interests of Interstate or Foreign Commerce and Affecting Lands of the United States, 42 F.P.C. 367 (August 6, 1969).

L–14: Unconstructed Minor Project Affecting Navigable Waters of the United States, 54 F.P.C. 1876 (October 31, 1975).

L–15: Unconstructed Minor Project Affecting the Interests of Interstate or Foreign Commerce, 54 F.P.C. 1883 (October 31, 1975).

L–16: Constructed Minor Project Affecting Lands of the United States, 54 F.P.C. 1888 (October 31, 1975).

L–17: Unconstructed Minor Project Affecting Lands of the United States, 54 F.P.C. 1896 (October 31, 1975).

L–18: Constructed Minor Project Affecting Navigable Waters and Lands of the United States, 54 F.P.C. 1903 (October 31, 1975).

L–19: Unconstructed Minor Project Affecting Navigable Waters and Lands of the United States, 54 F.P.C. 1911 (October 31, 1975).

L–20: Constructed Transmission Line Project, 54 F.P.C. 1919 (October 31, 1975).

L–21: Unconstructed Transmission Line Project, 54 F.P.C. 1923 (October 31, 1975).

(Secs. 3, 4, 15, 16, 301, 304, 308, and 309 (41 Stat. 1063–1066, 1068, 1072, 1075; 49 Stat. 838, 839, 840, 841, 854–856, 858–859; 82 Stat. 617; 16 U.S.C. 796, 797, 803, 808, 809, 816, 825, 825b, 825c, 825g, 825h, 826i), as amended, secs. 8, 10, and 16 (52 Stat. 825–826, 830; 15 U.S.C. 717g, 717i, 717o))

[Order 348, 32 FR 8521, June 14, 1967, as amended by Order 540, 40 FR 51998, Nov. 7, 1975; Order 567, 42 FR 30612, June 16, 1977; Order 699, 72 FR 45323, Aug. 14, 2007; Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§ 2.12 Calculation of taxes for property of public utilities and licensees constructed or acquired after January 1, 1970.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 441(a)(4)(A) of the Tax Reform Act of 1969, 83 Stat. 487, 625, public utilities and licensees regulated by the Commission under the Federal Power Act which have exercised the option provided by that section to change from flow through accounting will be permitted by the Commission, with respect to liberalized depreciation, to employ a normalization method for computing federal income taxes in their accounts and annual reports with respect to property constructed or acquired after January 1, 1970, to the extent with which such property increases the productive or operational capacity of the utility and is not a replacement of existing capacity. Such normalization will also be permitted for ratemaking purposes to the extent such rates are subject to the Commission's ratemaking authority. As to balances in Account 282 of the Uniform System of Accounts, ''Accumulated deferred income taxes—Other property,'' it will remain the Commission's policy to deduct such balances from rate base in rate proceedings.

(Secs. 3, 4, 15, 16, 301, 304, 308, and 309 (41 Stat. 1063–1066, 1068, 1072, 1075; 49 Stat. 838, 839, 840, 841, 854–856, 858–859; 82 Stat. 617; 16 U.S.C. 796, 797, 803, 808, 809, 816, 825, 825b, 825c, 825g, 825h, 826i), as amended, Secs. 8, 10, and 16 (52 Stat. 825–826, 830; 15 U.S.C. 717g, 717i, 717o))

[Order 404, 35 FR 7964, May 23, 1970, as amended by Order 567, 42 FR 30612, June 16, 1977]

§ 2.13 Design and construction.

(a) The Commission recognizes the importance of protecting and enhancing natural, historic, scenic, and recreational values at projects licensed or proposed to be licensed under the Federal Power Act.

(b) The Commission has adopted ''Guidelines for the Protection of Natural, Historic, Scenic, and Recreational Values in the Design and Location of Rights-of-Way and Transmission Facilities'' [1] as set forth in Order No. 414 issued November 27, 1970. The Commission will consider these guidelines inter alia, in the determination of whether applications for any licenses under the Federal Power Act are best adapted to a comprehensive plan for developing a waterway. The guidelines may be obtained from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20426.

[1] Filed as part of the original document.

(c) In furtherance of these polices, the Commission will not (1) permit the amendment of any license for the purpose of construction of additional facilities or (2) authorize the disposition of any interest in project lands for construction of any type, unless a showing is made that the construction will be designed to avoid or minimize conflict with the natural, historic, and scenic values and resources of the project area, including compliance with the Commission's ''Guidelines for the Protection of Natural, Historic, Scenic, and Recreational Values in the Design and Location of Rights-of-Way and Transmission Facilities''.

(Secs. 3, 4, 15, 16, 301, 304, 308, and 309 (41 Stat. 1063–1066, 1068, 1072, 1075; 49 Stat. 838, 839, 840, 841, 854–856, 858–859; 82 Stat. 617; 16 U.S.C. 796, 797, 803, 808, 809, 816, 825, 825b, 825c, 825g, 825h, 826i), as amended, Secs. 8, 10, and 16 (52 Stat. 825–826, 830; 15 U.S.C. 717g, 717i, 717o))

[Order 414, 35 FR 18586, Dec. 8, 1970, as amended by Order 567, 42 FR 30612, June 16, 1977; Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§ 2.15 Specified reasonable rate of return.

(a) Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Power Act, the Commission has determined that the specified reasonable rate of return used in computing amortization reserves for hydroelectric project licenses shall be calculated annually based on current capital ratios developed from an average of 13 monthly balances of amounts properly includible in the licensee's long-term debt and proprietary capital accounts, as listed in the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts. The cost rate for such ratios shall be the weighted average cost of long-term debt and preferred stock for the year, and the cost of common equity shall be the interest rate on 10-year government bonds (reported as the Treasury Department's 10-year constant maturity series) computed on the monthly average for the year in question, plus four percentage points (400 basis points).

(b) The Statement of Policy adopted herein shall be effective upon issuance of this order.

(c) The Secretary shall cause prompt publication of this order to be made in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(d) All requests and suggestions not specifically dealt with herein are hereby denied.

(e) The Secretary is hereby authorized to change the appropriate license article upon application by the licensees to reflect the specified reasonable rate of return as adopted herein.

[Order 550, 41 FR 27032, July 1, 1976]

§ 2.17 Price discrimination and anticompetitive effect (price squeeze issue).

To implement compliance with the Supreme Court decision in *F.P.C.* v. *Con-Way Corp.,* 426 U.S. 271 (1976), aff'g 510 F. 2d 1264 (D.C. Cir. 1975) and to expedite the consideration of price squeeze issues in wholesale electric rate proceedings, the Commission adopts the following procedures for raising price squeeze issues which are to be followed unless they are demonstrated in an individual case to be inadequate:

(a) Any wholesale customer, state commission or other interested person may file petitions to intervene alleging price discrimination and anticompetitive effects of the wholesale rates. In order to have the issue of price discrimination considered in the rate proceeding, the intervening customer or other interested person must support its allegation by a prima facie case. The elements of the prima facie case shall include at a minimum:

(1) Specification of the filing utility's retail rate schedules with which the intervening wholesale customer is unable to compete due to purchased power costs;

(2) A showing that a competitive situation exists in that the wholesale customer competes in the same market as the filing utility;

(3) A showing that the retail rates are lower than the proposed wholesale rates for comparable service;

(4) The wholesale customer's prospective rate for comparable retail service, i.e. the rate necessary to recover bulk power costs (at the proposed wholesale rate) and distribution costs;

(5) An indication of the reduction in the wholesale rate necessary to eliminate the price squeeze alleged.

(b) Where price squeeze is alleged, the Commission shall, in the order

granting intervention, direct the Administrative Law Judge to convene a prehearing conference within 15 days from the date of the order for the purpose of hearing intervenors' request for data required to present their case, including prima facie showing, on price squeeze issues.

(c) Within 30 days from the date of the conference the filing utility shall respond to the data requests authorized by the Administrative Law Judge.

(d) Within 30 days from the filing utility's response, the intervenors shall file their case-in-chief on price squeeze issues, which shall include their prima facie case, unless filed previously.

(e) The burden of proof (i.e. the risk of nonpersuasion) to rebut the allegations of price squeeze and to justify the proposed rates are on the utility proposing the rates under section 205(e) of the Federal Power Act.

(f) In proceedings where price squeeze is an issue, the Secretary shall include the state commission, agency or body which is responsible for regulation of retail rates in the state affected in the service list maintained under §385.2010(c) of this chapter.

[Order 563, 42 FR 16132, Mar. 25, 1977, as amended by Order 225, 47 FR 19054, May 3, 1982]

§ 2.18 Phased electric rate increase filings.

(a) In general, when a public utility files a phased rate increase, the Commission will determine the appropriate suspension period based on the total increase requested in all phases. If a utility files a rate increase within sixty days after filing another rate increase, the Commission will consider the filings together to be a phased rate increase request.

(b) This policy will not be applied if the increase is phased:

(1) To coordinate with new facilities coming on line;

(2) To implement a rate moderation plan;

(3) To avoid price squeeze;

(4) To comply with a settlement approved by the Commission; or

(5) If the utility makes a convincing showing that application of the policy would be harsh and inequitable and that, therefore, good cause has been shown not to apply the policy in the case.

[52 FR 11, Jan. 11, 1987]

§ 2.19 State and Federal comprehensive plans.

(a) In determining whether the proposed hydroelectric project is best adapted to a comprehensive plan under section (10)(a)(1) of the Federal Power Act for improving or developing a waterway, the Commission will consider the extent to which the project is consistent with a comprehensive plan (where one exists) for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by the project that is prepared by:

(1) An agency established pursuant to Federal law that has the authority to prepare such a plan, or

(2) A state agency, of the state in which the facility is or will be located, authorized to conduct such planning pursuant to state law.

(b) The Commission will treat as a state or Federal comprehensive plan a plan that:

(1) Is a comprehensive study of one or more of the beneficial uses of a waterway or waterways;

(2) Includes a description of the standards applied, the data relied upon, and the methodology used in preparing the plan; and

(3) Is filed with the Secretary of the Commission.

[Order 481–A, 53 FR 15804, May 4, 1988]

§ 2.20 Good faith requests for transmission services and good faith responses by transmitting utilities.

(a) *General Policy.* (1) This Statement of Policy is adopted in furtherance of the goals of sections 211(a) and 213(a) of the Federal Power Act, as amended and added by the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

(2) Under section 211(a), the Commission may issue an order requiring a transmitting utility to provide transmission services (including any enlargement of transmission capacity necessary to provide such services) only if an applicant has made a request for transmission services to the transmitting utility that would be the subject of such order at least 60 days prior to its filing of an application for such

order. The requirement in section 211(a) that an applicant make such a request will be met if such an applicant has, pursuant to section 213(a) of the FPA, made a good faith request to a transmitting utility to provide wholesale transmission services and requests specific rates and charges, and other terms and conditions.

(3) It is the Commission's intention to apply the standards of this Statement of Policy when determining whether and when a valid ''good faith'' request for service was made.

(4) It is the Commission's intention to encourage an open exchange of information that exhibits a reasonable degree of specificity and completeness between the party requesting transmission services and the transmitting utility.

(5) The Commission intends to apply this Statement of Policy so as to carry out Congress' objective that, subject to appropriate terms and conditions and just and reasonable rates, in conformance with section 212 of the FPA, access to the electric transmission system for the purposes of wholesale transactions be more widely available.

(b) *The Components of a good faith request.* The Commission generally considers the following to constitute the minimum components of a good faith request for transmission services:

(1) The identity, address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the party requesting transmission services, and the same information, if different, for the party's contact person or persons.

(2) A statement that the party requesting transmission services is, or will be upon commencement of service, an entity eligible to request transmission under sections 211(a) and 213(a) of the FPA.

(3) A statement that the request for transmission services is intended to satisfy the ''request for transmission services'' requirement under sections 211(a) and 213(a) of the FPA, and that the request is not a request for mandatory retail wheeling prohibited under section 212(h) of the FPA.

(4) The party requesting transmission services should specify the character and nature of the services requested. Some types of service may require more detailed information than others. Where point-to-point service is requested, the party requesting transmission services should specify the anticipated point(s) of receipt to the transmitting utility's grid and the anticipated point(s) of delivery from the transmitting utility's grid. Where a party requesting transmission services requests additional flexibility to schedule multiple resources to meet its needs (*e.g.*, network service), the request for services should contain a description of the requested services in sufficient detail to permit the transmitting utility to model the additional services on its transmission system.

(5) The names of any other parties likely to provide transmission service to deliver electric energy to, and receive electric energy from, the transmitting utility's grid in connection with the requested transmission services.

(6) The proposed dates for initiating and terminating the requested transmission services.

(7) The total amount of transmission capacity being requested.

(8) To the extent it is known or can be estimated, a description of the ''expected transaction profile'' including load factor data describing the hourly quantities of power and energy the party requesting transmission services would expect to deliver to the transmitting utility's grid at relevant points of interconnection. In the event delivery is to multiple points within the transmitting utility's electric control area, the requestor should describe, to the extent it is known or can be estimated, the expected load (over a given duration of time) at each such delivery point.

(9) Whether firm or non-firm service is being requested. Where a party requests non-firm service, it should specify the priority of service it is willing to accept, or the conditions under which it is willing to accept interruption or curtailment, if known.

(10) A statement as to whether the request is being made in response to a solicitation and a copy of the solicitation if publicly available. This will

help the transmitting utility determine whether requests for transmission service are duplicative or mutually exclusive of requests filed by other parties.

(11) The proposed rates, terms and conditions for the requested transmission services as required by section 213(a). It is not necessary for the requestor to propose a specific numerical rate. Rather, a party requesting transmission services can fulfill the rates, terms and conditions requirement by specifying a rate methodology (*e.g.*, embedded or incremental cost) or by referencing an existing formula rate, transmission tariff, or transmission contract. The validity of the good faith request will not depend on the rates proposed by the party requesting transmission services. This requirement is not intended to allow utilities to delay responses to requests for transmission services, or to deny requests for transmission services on the basis of an overly rigid or technical approach to the ''rates, terms and conditions'' element of the request.

(12) Any other information to facilitate the expeditious processing of its request. Such information will improve the negotiation process, reduce costs, and will improve chances to arrange the requested transmission without resorting to section 211 application procedures before the Commission.

(c) *Components of a Reply to a Good Faith Request.* The Commission generally considers the following to constitute the minimum components of a reply to a good faith request for transmission services under section 213(a):

(1) Unless the parties agree to a different time frame, the transmitting utility must acknowledge the request within 10 days of receipt. The acknowledgement must include a date by which a response will be sent to the party requesting transmission services and a statement of any fees associated with responding to the request (e.g., initial studies).

(2) The transmitting utility may ask the applicant to provide clarification of only the information needed to evaluate and process a ''good faith'' request. If the person requesting transmission services believes the transmitting utility is attempting to frustrate the process by making excessive requests for clarification, it may raise this issue if, and when, it files a request for a section 211 order with the Commission.

(3) The transmitting utility must respond to a request within 60 days of receipt or some other mutually agreed upon response date. If both parties agree to an alternative schedule, the agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties.

(4) If the transmitting utility determines that it can provide all the requested services from existing capacity, it should respond by offering the party requesting transmission services an executable service agreement that at a minimum contains the following information:

(i) A description of the proposed transmission rate and any other costs. It is not necessary for the proposed service agreement to contain a fully developed cost-of-service. However, the agreement should explain the basis for the charges for each component of service, including the unbundled components of any transmission rate as well as any other charges.

(ii) The proposed service agreement should explicitly describe all of the applicable terms and conditions of the transmission services provided under the agreement.

(iii) The transmitting utility should accompany the proposed service agreement with a clear statement of the time during which the offer to provide the transmission services will remain open. An open agreement offer may obligate the seller while imposing no countervailing obligation on the purchaser, and an unexecuted contract potentially ties up transmission facilities, thus jeopardizing the availability and price for subsequent requests that would use the same facilities. However, at a minimum, a transmitting utility should permit the party requesting transmission services sufficient time to review service agreements and coordinate multiple stages of joint transactions.

(5) If the transmitting utility determines that it must construct additional facilities or modify existing facilities to provide all or part of the requested services, it must:

(i) Identify the specific constraints and their duration that prevent it from providing all the requested services and explain how these constraints prevent it from providing all the requested services or the desired level of firmness.

(ii) Provide to the applicant all studies, computer input and output data, planning, operating and other documents, work papers, assumptions and any other material that forms the basis for determining the constraints.

(iii) Offer to the applicant an executable agreement under which the applicant agrees to reimburse the transmitting utility for all costs of performing any studies necessary to determine what changes to the transmitting utility's grid are needed to overcome the constraint and provide the requested services, their cost, and the estimated time to complete them. At a minimum, the proposed agreement should contain the following:

(A) An estimate of the cost of the study and the time required to complete it, and

(B) A commitment to supply to the party requesting transmission services all computer input and output data, planning, operating and other documents, work papers, assumptions and any other material used to perform the study.

(iv) If a transmitting utility determines that it can provide part but not all of the requested services without building new facilities, it should inform the applicant of any portion of the requested services that can be performed without constructing additional facilities or modifying existing facilities. In effect, the transmitting utility may be able to treat such a request as two separate transactions—one for service on existing facilities and the other as a request involving expansion decisions. Furthermore, where there are alternative, less expensive means of satisfying all or a portion of a transmission request, the Commission expects the transmitting utility to explore such alternatives (*e.g.*, redispatching certain generating units to alleviate a constraint).

[58 FR 38969, July 21, 1993]

§ 2.21 Regional Transmission Groups.

(a) *General policy.* The Commission encourages Regional Transmission Groups (RTGs) as a means of enabling the market for electric power to operate in a more competitive and efficient way. The Commission believes that RTGs can provide a means of coordinating regional planning of the transmission system and assuring that system capabilities are always adequate to meet system demands. RTG agreements that contain components that satisfy paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section generally will be considered to be just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential under the Federal Power Act (FPA). The Commission encourages RTG agreements that contain as much detail as possible in all of the components listed, particularly if the RTG participants will be seeking Commission deference to decisions reached under an RTG agreement.

(b) *Organizational components.* (1) An RTG agreement should provide for broad membership and, at a minimum, allow any entity that is subject to, or eligible to apply for, an order under section 211 of the FPA to be a member. An RTG agreement should encompass an area of sufficient size and contiguity to enable members to provide transmission services in a reliable, efficient, and competitive manner.

(2) An RTG agreement should provide a means of adequate consultation and coordination with relevant state regulatory, siting, and other authorities.

(3) An RTG agreement should include fair and nondiscriminatory governance and decision making procedures, including voting procedures.

(c) *Other components.* (1) An RTG agreement should impose on member transmitting utilities an obligation to provide transmission services for other members, including the obligation to enlarge facilities, on a basis that is consistent with sections 205, 206, 211, 212 and 213 of the FPA. To the extent practicable and known, the RTG agreement should specify the terms and conditions under which transmission services will be offered.

(2) An RTG agreement should require, at a minimum, the development of a coordinated transmission plan on a

regional basis and the sharing of transmission planning information, with the goal of efficient use, expansion, and coordination of the interconnected electric system on a grid-wide basis. An RTG agreement should provide mechanisms to incorporate the transmission needs of non-members into regional plans. An RTG agreement should include as much detail as possible with regard to operational and planning procedures.

(3) An RTG agreement should include voluntary dispute resolution procedures that provide a fair alternative to resorting in the first instance to section 206 complaints or section 211 proceedings.

(4) An RTG agreement should include an exit provision for RTG members that leave the RTG, specifying the obligations of a departing member.

(d) *Filing procedures.* Any proposed RTG agreement that in any manner affects or relates to the transmission of electric energy in interstate commerce by a public utility, or rates or charges for such transmission, must be filed with the Commission. Any public utility member of a proposed RTG may file the RTG agreement with the Commission on behalf of the other public utility members under section 205 of the FPA.

[58 FR 41632, Aug. 5, 1993]

§ 2.22 Pricing policy for transmission services provided under the Federal Power Act.

(a) The Commission has adopted a Policy Statement on its pricing policy for transmission services provided under the Federal Power Act. That Policy Statement can be found at 69 FERC 61,086. The Policy Statement constitutes a complete description of the Commission's guidelines for assessing the pricing proposals. Paragraph (b) of this section is only a brief summary of the Policy Statement.

(b) The Commission endorses transmission pricing flexibility, consistent with the principles and procedures set forth in the Policy Statement. It will entertain transmission pricing proposals that do not conform to the traditional revenue requirement as well as proposals that conform to the traditional revenue requirement. The Commission will evaluate ''conforming'' transmission pricing proposals using the following five principles, described more fully in the Policy Statement.

(1) Transmission pricing must meet the traditional revenue requirement.

(2) Transmission pricing must reflect comparability.

(3) Transmission pricing should promote economic efficiency.

(4) Transmission pricing should promote fairness.

(5) Transmission pricing should be practical.

(c) Under these principles, the Commission will also evaluate ''non-conforming'' proposals which do not meet the traditional revenue requirement, and will require such proposals to conform to the comparability principle. Non-conforming proposals must include an open access comparability tariff and will not be allowed to go into effect prior to review and approval by the Commission under procedures described in the Policy Statement.

[59 FR 55039, Nov. 3, 1994]

§ 2.23 Use of reserved authority in hydropower licenses to ameliorate cumulative impacts.

The Commission will address and consider cumulative impact issues at original licensing and relicensing to the fullest extent possible consistent with the Commission's statutory responsibility to avoid undue delay in the relicensing process and to avoid undue delay in the amelioration of individual project impacts at relicensing. To the extent, if any, that it is not possible to explore and address all cumulative impacts at relicensing, the Commission will reserve authority to examine and address such impacts after the new license has been issued, but will define that reserved authority as narrowly and with as much specificity as possible, particularly with respect to the purpose of reserving that authority. The Commission intends that such articles will describe, to the maximum extent possible, reasonably foreseeable future resource concerns that may warrant modifications of the licensed project. Before taking any action pursuant to such reserved authority, the Commission will publish notice of its

proposed action and will provide an opportunity for hearing by the licensee and all interested parties. Hydropower licenses also contain standard ''reopener'' articles (see § 2.9 of this part) which reserve authority to the Commission to require, among other things, licensees of projects located in the same river basin to mitigate the cumulative impacts of those projects on the river basin. In light of the policy described above, the Commission will use the standard ''reopener'' articles to explore and address cumulative impacts only (except in extraordinary circumstances) where such impacts were not known at the time of licensing or are the result of changed circumstances. The Commission has authority under the Federal Power Act to require licensees, during the term of the license, to develop and provide data to the Commission on the cumulative impacts of licensed projects located in the same river basin. In issuing both new and original licenses, the Commission will coordinate the expiration dates of the licenses to the maximum extent possible, to maximize future consideration of cumulative impacts at the same time in contemporaneous proceedings at relicensing. The Commission's intention is to consider to the extent practicable cumulative impacts at the time of licensing and relicensing, and to eliminate the need to resort to the use of reserved authority.

[59 FR 66718, Dec. 28, 1994]

§ 2.24 Project decommissioning at relicensing.

The Commission issued a statement of policy on project decommissioning at relicensing in Docket No. RM93–23–000 on December 14, 1994.

[60 FR 347, Jan. 4, 1995]

§ 2.25 Ratemaking treatment of the cost of emissions allowances in coordination transactions.

(a) *General Policy*. This Statement of Policy is adopted in furtherance of the goals of Title IV of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, Pub. L. 101–549, Title IV, 104 Stat. 2399, 2584 (1990).

(b) *Costing Emissions Allowances in Coordination Sales*. If a public utility's coordination rate on file with the Commission provides for recovery of variable costs on an incremental basis, the Commission will allow recovery of the incremental costs of emissions allowances associated with a coordination sale. If a coordination rate does not reflect incremental costs, the public utility should propose alternative allowance costing methods or demonstrate that the coordination rate does not produce unreasonable results. The Commission finds that the cost to replace an allowance is an appropriate basis to establish the incremental cost.

(c) *Use of Indices*. The Commission will allow public utilities to determine emissions allowance costs on the basis of an index or combination of indices of the current price of emissions allowances, provided that the public utility affords purchasing utilities the option of providing emissions allowances. Public utilities should explain and justify any use of different incremental cost indices for pricing coordination sales and making dispatch decisions.

(d) *Calculation of Amount of Emissions Allowances Associated With Coordination Transactions*. Public utilities should explain the methods used to compute the amount of emissions allowances included in coordination transactions.

(e) *Timing*. (1) Public utilities should provide information to purchasing utilities regarding the timing of opportunities for purchasers to stipulate whether they will purchase or return emissions allowances. A public utility may require a purchasing utility to declare, no later than the beginning of the coordination transaction:

(i) Whether it will purchase or return emissions allowances; and

(ii) If it will return emissions allowances, the date on which those allowances will be returned.

(2) Public utilities may include in agreements with purchasing utilities non-discriminatory provisions for indemnification if the purchasing utility fails to provide emissions allowances by the date on which it declares that the allowances will be returned.

(f) *Other Costing Methods Not Precluded*. The ratemaking treatment of emissions allowance costs endorsed in

this Policy Statement does not preclude other approaches proposed by individual utilities on a case-by-case basis.

[59 FR 65938, Dec. 22, 1994, as amended by Order 579, 60 FR 22261, May 5, 1995]

§ 2.26 Policies concerning review of applications under section 203.

(a) The Commission has adopted a Policy Statement on its policies for reviewing transactions subject to section 203. That Policy Statement can be found at 77 FERC ¶61,263 (1996). The Policy Statement is a complete description of the relevant guidelines. Paragraphs (b)–(e) of this section are only a brief summary of the Policy Statement.

(b) *Factors Commission will generally consider.* In determining whether a proposed transaction subject to section 203 is consistent with the public interest, the Commission will generally consider the following factors; it may also consider other factors:

(1) The effect on competition;

(2) The effect on rates; and

(3) The effect on regulation.

(c) *Effect on competition.* Applicants should provide data adequate to allow analysis under the Department of Justice/Federal Trade Commission Merger Guidelines, as described in the Policy Statement and Appendix A to the Policy Statement.

(d) *Effect on rates.* Applicants should propose mechanisms to protect customers from costs due to the merger. If the proposal raises substantial issues of relevant fact, the Commission may set this issue for hearing.

(e) *Effect on regulation.* (1) Where the affected state commissions have authority to act on the transaction, the Commission will not set for hearing whether the transaction would impair effective regulation by the state commissions. The application should state whether the state commissions have this authority.

(2) Where the affected state commissions do not have authority to act on the transaction, the Commission may set for hearing the issue of whether the transaction would impair effective state regulation.

(f) Under section 203(a)(4) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824b), in reviewing a proposed transaction subject to section 203, the Commission will also consider whether the proposed transaction will result in cross-subsidization of a non-utility associate company or pledge or encumbrance of utility assets for the benefit of an associate company, unless that cross-subsidization, pledge, or encumbrance will be consistent with the public interest.

[Order 592, 61 FR 68606, Dec. 30, 1996, as amended by Order 669–A, 71 FR 28443, May 16, 2006]

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS UNDER THE NATURAL GAS ACT

§ 2.51 [Reserved]

§ 2.52 Suspension of rate schedules.

The interpretation stated in § 2.4 applies as well to the suspension of rate schedules under section 4 of the Natural Gas Act.

(Natural Gas Act, 15 U.S.C. 717–717w (1976 & Supp. IV 1980); Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a–828c (1976 & Supp. IV 1980); Dept. of Energy Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7101–7352 (Supp. IV 1980); E.O. 12009, 3 CFR part 142 (1978); 5 U.S.C. 553 (1976))

[Order 303, 48 FR 24361, June 1, 1983]

§ 2.55 Definition of terms used in section 7(c).

For the purposes of section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, as amended, the word *facilities* as used therein shall be interpreted to exclude:

(a) *Auxiliary installations.* (1) Installations (excluding gas compressors) which are merely auxiliary or appurtenant to an authorized or proposed transmission pipeline system and which are installations only for the purpose of obtaining more efficient or more economical operation of the authorized or proposed transmission facilities, such as: Valves; drips; pig launchers/receivers; yard and station piping; cathodic protection equipment; gas cleaning, cooling and dehydration equipment; residual refining equipment; water pumping, treatment and cooling equipment; electrical and communication equipment; and buildings.

(2) *Advance notification.* One of the following requirements will apply to

any specified auxiliary installation. If auxiliary facilities are to be installed:

(i) On existing transmission facilities, then no notification is required;

(ii) On, or at the same time as, certificated facilities which are not yet in service (except those authorized under the automatic procedures of part 157 of subpart F of this chapter), then a description of the auxiliary facilities and their locations must be provided to the Commission at least 30 days in advance of their installation; or

(iii) On and at the same time as facilities that are proposed, then the auxiliary facilities must be described in the environmental report specified in §380.12 or in a supplemental filing while the application is pending.

(b) *Replacement of facilities.* (1) Facilities which constitute the replacement of existing facilities that have or will soon become physically deteriorated or obsolete, to the extent that replacement is deemed advisable, if:

(i) The replacement will not result in a reduction or abandonment of service through the facilities;

(ii) The replacement facilities will have a substantially equivalent designed delivery capacity, will be located in the same right-of-way or on the same site as the facilities being replaced, and will be constructed using the temporary work space used to construct the original facility (See appendix A to this part 2 for guidelines on what is considered to be the appropriate work area in this context);

(iii) Except as described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the company files notification of such activity with the Commission at least 30 days prior to commencing construction.

(2) *Advance notification not required.* The advance notification described in paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section is not required if:

(i) The cost of the replacement project does not exceed the cost limit specified in Column 1 of Table I of §157.208(d) of this chapter; or

(ii) U.S. Department of Transportation safety regulations require that the replacement activity be performed immediately;

(3) *Contents of the advance notification.* The advance notification described in paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section must include the following information:

(i) A brief description of the facilities to be replaced (including pipeline size and length, compression horsepower, design capacity, and cost of construction);

(ii) Current U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute series topographic maps showing the location of the facilities to be replaced; and

(iii) A description of the procedures to be used for erosion control, revegetation and maintenance, and stream and wetland crossings.

(4) *Annual report.* On or before May 1 of each year, a company must file (in accordance with filing procedures posted on the Commission's Web site at *http://www.ferc.gov.*) an annual report that lists for the previous calendar year each replacement project that was completed pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section and that was exempt from the advance notification requirement pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section. For each such replacement project, the company must include all of the information described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section. *Exception.* A company does not have to include in this annual report any aboveground replacement project that did not involve compression facilities or the use of earthmoving equipment.

(c)–(d) [Reserved]

(Sec. 7, 52 Stat. 824; 15 U.S.C. 717f)

[Order 148, 14 FR 681, Feb. 16, 1949, as amended by Order 220, 25 FR 2363, Mar. 19, 1960; Order 241, 27 FR 510, Jan. 18, 1962; Order 148–A, 38 FR 11450, May 8, 1973; 55 FR 33015, Aug. 13, 1990; Order 544, 57 FR 46495, Oct. 9, 1992; Order 544–A, 58 FR 57735, Oct. 27, 1993; Order 603, 64 FR 26603, May 14, 1999; Order 603–A, 64 FR 54535, Oct. 7, 1999; 65 FR 18221, Apr. 7, 2000; Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§ 2.57 Temporary certificates—pipeline companies.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will exercise the emergency powers set forth in the second proviso of section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act to authorize in appropriate cases, by issuance of temporary certificates, comparatively minor enlargements or extensions of an existing pipeline system. It will not be the policy of the

Commission, however, to proceed summarily, i.e., without notice or hearing, in cases where the proposed construction is of major proportions. Pipeline companies are accordingly urged to conduct their planning and to submit their applications for authority sufficiently early so that compliance with the requirements relating to issuance of permanent certificates of public convenience and necessity (when those requirements are deemed applicable by the Commission) will not cause undue delay in the commencement of necessary construction.

(52 Stat. 824; 56 Stat. 83; 15 U.S.C. 717f)

[Gen. Policy 62–1, 26 FR 10098, Oct. 27, 1961, as amended by Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§ 2.60 Facilities and activities during an emergency—accounting treatment of defense-related expenditures.

The Commission, cognizant of the need of the natural gas industry for advice with respect to the applicability of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's regulations thereunder regarding activities and operations of natural gas companies taking security measures in preparation for a possible national emergency, sets forth the following interpretation and statement of policy:

(a) *Facilities.* The definition of *auxiliary installations* in § 2.55(a) for which no certificate authority is necessary includes such defense-related facilities as (1) fallout shelters at compressor stations and other operating and maintenance camps; (2) emergency company headquarters or other similar installations; and (3) emergency communication equipment.

(b) The Commission will consider reasonable investment in defense-related facilities, such as those described in paragraph (a) of this section, to be *prudent investment* for ratemaking purposes.

(c) When a person, not otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, files an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction of facilities to be used solely for operation in a national emergency for the delivery of gas to, or receipt of gas from, a person subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, the Commission will consider a request by such applicant for waiver of the requirement to keep and maintain its accounts in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts for Natural Gas Companies (parts 201 and 204 of this chapter) or to file the annual reports to the Commission required by §§ 260.1 and 260.2 of this chapter.

(Secs. 3, 4, 15, 16, 301, 304, 308, and 309 (41 Stat. 1063–1066, 1068, 1072, 1075; 49 Stat. 838, 839, 840, 841, 854–856, 858–859; 82 Stat. 617; 16 U.S.C. 796, 797, 803, 808, 809, 816, 825, 825b, 825c, 825g, 825h, 826i), as amended, secs. 8, 10, and 16 (52 Stat. 825–826, 830; 15 U.S.C. 717g, 717i, 717o))

[Order 274, 28 FR 12866, Dec. 4, 1963, as amended by Order 567, 42 FR 30612, June 16, 1977]

§ 2.67 Calculation of taxes for property of pipeline companies constructed or acquired after January 1, 1970.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 441(a)(4)(A) of the Tax Reform Act of 1969, 83 Stat. 487, 625, natural gas pipeline companies which have exercised the option provided by that section to change from flow through accounting will be permitted by the Commission, with respect to liberalized depreciation, to employ a normalization method for computing Federal income taxes in their accounts and annual reports with respect to property constructed or acquired after January 1, 1970, to the extent to which such property increases the productive or operational capacity of the utility and is not a replacement of existing capacity. Such normalization will also be permitted for ratemaking purposes. As to balances in Account No. 282 of the Uniform System of Accounts, ''Accumulated deferred income taxes—Other property,'' it will remain the Commission's policy to deduct such balances from the rate base of natural gas pipeline companies in rate proceedings.

(Secs. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 301, 304, 308, and 309 (41 Stat. 1063–1066, 1068, 1072, 1075; 49 Stat. 838, 839, 840, 841, 854–856, 858–859; 52 Stat. 822, 823, 825, 826; 76 Stat. 72; 82 Stat. 617; 16 U.S.C. 796, 797, 803, 808, 809, 816, 825, 825b, 825c, 825g, 825h, 826i); as amended, secs. 8, 10, and 16 (52 Stat. 825–826, 830; 15 U.S.C. 717c, 717d, 717g, 717h, 717i, 717o))

[Order 404, 35 FR 7964, May 23, 1970, as amended by Order 567, 42 FR 30612, June 16, 1977]

§ 2.69 [Reserved]

§ 2.76 Regulatory treatment of payments made in lieu of take-or-pay obligations.

With respect to payments made to a first seller of natural gas as consideration for waiving or revising any agreement for the first sale of natural gas, as defined by section (2)(21) of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA), the Commission sets forth the following statement of general policy and interpretation of law.

(a) *Payments in consideration.* A first seller of natural gas that receives payments as consideration for amending or waiving the take-or-pay or similar minimum payment provisions of a contract for the first sale of natural gas is not in violation of section 504(a) of the NGPA.

(b) *Recovery in rates.* A pipeline that makes any payments referred to under paragraph (a) of this section, to first sellers may file to recover such costs in any section 4(e) rate filing other than a filing to recover purchased gas costs.

(c) *Case-specific review.* A pipeline's method of recovering these costs and how it should apportion them among customers will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in the context of individual rate case filings.

(d) *Customers' rights.* When a pipeline seeks to recover payments referred to under paragraph (a) of this section, its customers will have the full opportunity contemplated by section 4 of the Natural Gas Act to raise questions as to the prudence of such payments, the apportionment of costs among customers proposed by the filing pipeline, and any other reasonably related matters.

(e) *Certificate amendments and abandonment.* With regard to natural gas the sale of which is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction under the Natural Gas Act, if any payments referred to under paragraph (a) of this section are accompanied by a change in or a termination of, the first seller's contractual obligation to provide natural gas service, the Commission will, as a general policy under sections 7(c) and 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act, expeditiously grant any certificate amendments or abandonment authorizations, required to effectuate such contractual or service modifications.

In cases where a producer abandonment application is based on payments made pursuant to this policy statement, the interstate pipeline making the payments will be deemed to have waived any right to oppose the abandonment.

[50 FR 16080, Apr. 24, 1985, as amended by Order 436, 50 FR 42487, Oct. 18, 1985]

§ 2.78 Utilization and conservation of natural resources—natural gas.

(a)(1) The national interests in the development and utilization of natural gas resources throughout the United States will be served by recognition and implementation of the following priority-of-service categories for use during periods of curtailed deliveries by jurisdictional pipeline companies:

(i) Residential, small commercial (less than 50 Mcf on a peak day).

(ii) Large commercial requirements (50 Mcf or more on a peak day), firm industrial requirements for plant protection, feedstock and process needs, and pipeline customer storage injection requirements.

(iii) All industrial requirements not specified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), or (ix) of this section.

(iv) Firm industrial requirements for boiler fuel use at less than 3,000 Mcf per day, but more than 1,500 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(v) Firm industrial requirements for large volume (3,000 Mcf or more per day) boiler fuel use where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(vi) Interruptible requirements of more than 300 Mcf per day, but less than 1,500 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(vii) Interruptible requirements of intermediate volumes (from 1,500 Mcf per day through 3,000 Mcf per day), where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(viii) Interruptible requirements of more than 3,000 Mcf per day, but less than 10,000 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(ix) Interruptible requirements of more than 10,000 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(2) The priorities-of-deliveries set forth above will be applied to the deliveries of all jurisdictional pipeline companies during periods of curtailment on each company's system; except, however, that, upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances after hearing initiated by a petition filed under § 385.207 of this chapter, exceptions to those priorities may be permitted.

(3) The above list of priorities requires the full curtailment of the lower priority category volumes to be accomplished before curtailment of any higher priority volumes is commenced. Additionally, the above list requires both the direct and indirect customers of the pipeline that use gas for similar purposes to be placed in the same category of priority.

(4) The tariffs filed with this Commission should contain provisions that will reflect sufficient flexibility to permit pipeline companies to respond to emergency situations (including environmental emergencies) during periods of curtailment where supplemental deliveries are required to forestall irreparable injury to life or property.

(b) Request for relief from curtailment shall be filed under § 385.1501 of this chapter. Those petitions shall use the priorities set forth in (paragraph (a)(1) of this section) above, the definitions contained in paragraph (b)(3) of this section and shall contain the following minimal information:

(1) The specific amount of natural gas deliveries requested on peak day and monthly basis, and the type of contract under which the deliveries would be made.

(2) The estimated duration of the relief requested.

(3) A breakdown of all natural gas requirements on peak day and monthly bases at the plant site by specific end-uses.

(4) The specific end-uses to which the natural gas requested will be utilized and should also reflect the scheduling within each particular end-use with and without the relief requested.

(5) The estimated peak day and monthly volumes of natural gas which would be available with and without the relief requested from all sources of supply for the period specified in the request.

(6) A description of existing alternate fuel capabilities on peak day and monthly bases broken down by end-uses as shown in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(7) For the alternate fuels shown in paragraph (b)(5) of this section, provide a description of the existing storage facilities and the amount of present fuel inventory, names and addresses of existing alternate fuel suppliers, and anticipated delivery schedules for the period for which relief is sought.

(8) The current price per million Btu for natural gas supplies and alternate fuels supplies.

(9) A description of efforts to secure natural gas and alternate fuels, including documentation of contacts with the Federal Energy Office and any state or local fuel allocation agencies or public utility commission.

(10) A description of all fuel conservation activities undertaken in the facility for which relief is sought.

(11) If petitioner is a local natural gas distributor, a description of the currently effective curtailment program and details regarding any flexibility which may be available by effectuating additional curtailment to its existing industrial customers. The distributor should also provide a breakdown of the estimated disposition of its natural gas estimated to be available by end-use priorities established in paragraph (a)(1) of this section for the period for which relief is sought.

(c) When used in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the following terms will be defined as follows:

(1) *Residential.* Service to customers which consists of direct natural gas usage in a residential dwelling for space heating, air conditioning, cooking, water heating, and other residential uses.

(2) *Commercial.* Service to customers engaged primarily in the sale of goods or services including institutions and local, state, and federal government agencies for uses other than those involving manufacturing or electric power generation.

(3) *Industrial.* Service to customers engaged primarily in a process which creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product including the generation of electric power.

(4) *Firm service.* Service from schedules or contracts under which seller is expressly obligated to deliver specific volumes within a given time period and which anticipates no interruptions, but which may permit unexpected interruption in case the supply to higher priority customers is threatened.

(5) *Interruptible service.* Service from schedules or contracts under which seller is not expressly obligated to deliver specific volumes within a given time period, and which anticipates and permits interruption on short notice, or service under schedules or contracts which expressly or impliedly require installation of alternate fuel capability.

(6) *Plant protection gas.* Is defined as minimum volumes required to prevent physical harm to the plant facilities or danger to plant personnel when such protection cannot be afforded through the use of an alternate fuel. This includes the protection of such material in process as would otherwise be destroyed, but shall not include deliveries required to maintain plant production. For the purposes of this definition propane and other gaseous fuels shall not be considered alternate fuels.

(7) *Feedstock gas.* Is defined as natural gas used as raw material for its chemical properties in creating an end product.

(8) *Process gas.* Is defined as gas use for which alternate fuels are not technically feasible such as in applications requiring precise temperature controls and precise flame characteristics. For the purposes of this definition propane and other gaseous fuels shall not be considered alternate fuels.

(9) *Boiler fuel.* Is considered to be natural gas used as a fuel for the generation of steam or electricity, including the utilization of gas turbines for the generation of electricity.

(10) *Alternate fuel capabilities.* Is defined as a situation where an alternate fuel could have been utilized whether or not the facilities for such use have actually been installed; *Provided, however,* Where the use of natural gas is for plant protection, feedstock, or process uses and the only alternate fuel is propane or other gaseous fuel then the consumer will be treated as if he had no alternate fuel capability.

(Sec. 4, 52 Stat. 822, 76 Stat. 72 (15 U.S.C. 717c); Sec. 5, 52 Stat. 823 (15 U.S.C. 717d); Sec. 7, 52 Stat. 824, 825, 56 Stat. 83, 84, 61 Stat. 459 (15 U.S.C. 717f); Sec. 10, 52 Stat. 826 (15 U.S.C. 717i); Sec. 14, 52 Stat. 820 (15 U.S.C. 717m); Sec. 15, 52 Stat. 829 (15 U.S.C. 717n); Sec. 16, 52 Stat. 930 (15 U.S.C. 717o); Pub. L. 96–511, 94 Stat. 2812 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*))

[Order 467A, 38 FR 2171, Jan. 22, 1973, as amended by Order 467B, 38 FR 6386, Mar. 9, 1973; Order 493–A, 38 FR 30433, Nov. 5, 1973; Order 467–C, 39 FR 12984, Apr. 10, 1974; Order 225, 47 FR 19055, May 3, 1982]

STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY TO IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969

AUTHORITY: Sections 2.80–2.82 issued under secs. 4, 10, 15, 307, 309, 311 and 312 (41 Stat. 1065, 1066, 1068, 1070; 46 Stat. 798, 49 Stat. 839, 840, 841, 942, 843, 844, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, Stat. 501, 82 Stat. 617; 16 U.S.C. 797, 803, 808, 825f, 825h, 825j, 825k), and the Natural Gas Act, particularly secs. 7 and 16 (52 Stat. 824, 825, 830, 56 Stat. 83, 84; 61 Stat. 459; 15 U.S.C. 717f, 717o), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Pub. L. 91–190, approved January 1, 1970, particularly secs. 102 and 103 (83 Stat. 853, 854), unless otherwise noted.

§ 2.80 Detailed environmental statement.

(a) It will be the general policy of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to adopt and to adhere to the objectives and aims of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) in its regulations promulgated for statutes under the jurisdiction of the Commission, including the Federal Power Act, the Natural Gas Act and the Natural Gas Policy Act. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires, among other things, all Federal agencies to include a detailed environmental statement in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

(b) Therefore, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Commission staff will make a

detailed environmental statement when the regulatory action taken by the Commission under the statutes under the jurisdiction of the Commission will have a significant environmental impact. The specific regulations implementing NEPA are contained in part 380 of the Commission's regulations.

[Order 486, 52 FR 47910, Dec. 17, 1987]

STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY TO IMPLEMENT THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS 11615 AND 11627

AUTHORITY: Sections 2.90 through 2.102 issued under 84 Stat. 799, as amended, 85 Stat. 38, unless otherwise noted.

§§ 2.100–2.102 [Reserved]

§ 2.103 Statement of policy respecting take or pay provisions in gas purchase contracts.

(a) Recognizing that take or pay contract obligations may be shielding the prices of deregulated and other higher cost gas from market constraints, the Commission sets forth its general policy regarding prepayments for natural gas pursuant to take or pay provisions in gas contracts and amendments thereto between producers and interstate pipelines which become effective December 23, 1982. The provisions of this policy statement do not establish a binding norm but instead provide general guidance. In particular cases, both the underlying validity of the policy and its application to particular facts may be challenged and are subject to further consideration.

(b) With respect to gas purchase contracts entered into on or after December 23, 1982, the Commission intends to apply a rebuttable presumption in general rate cases that prepayments to producers will not be given rate base treatment if the prepayments are made pursuant to take or pay requirements in such gas purchase contracts or amendments which exceed 75 percent of annual deliverability.

(Natural Gas Act, 15 U.S.C. 717–717w; Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95–621, 92 Stat. 3350, 15 U.S.C. 3301–3432)

[47 FR 57269, Dec. 23, 1982]

§ 2.104 Mechanisms for passthrough of pipeline take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs.

(a) *General Policy*. The Commission as a matter of policy will provide two distinct mechanisms for passthrough of take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs of interstate natural gas pipelines. The first is pursuant to existing Commission policy and practice. Under this method, pipelines may pass through prudently incurred take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs in their sales commodity rates. The second method is available to pipelines which agree to an equitable sharing of take-or-pay costs and which transport under part 284 of this chapter. Qualifying pipelines may utilize the alternative passthrough mechanisms described in this section. Where a pipeline agrees to absorb from 25 to 50 percent of take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs, the Commission will permit the pipeline to recover through a fixed charge an amount equal to (but not greater than) the amount absorbed. Any remaining costs up to 50 percent of total buyout and buydown costs may be recovered either through a commodity rate surcharge or a volumetric surcharge on total throughput.

(b) *Cost allocation procedures*. A pipeline's volume-based surcharges must be based on the volumes which underlie its most recent Commission-approved rates. Fixed charges must be based on each customer's cumulative deficiency in purchases in recent years (during which the current take-or-pay liabilities of the pipelines were incurred) measured in relation to that customer's purchases during a representative period during which take-or-pay liabilities were not incurred. The allocation formula employed must incorporate the following guidelines:

(1) A representative base period must be selected. The base period must reflect a representative level of purchases by the pipeline's firm customers during a period preceding the onset of changed conditions which resulted in reduced purchases and growth of the take-or-pay problem.

(2) Firm purchases by each customer during the base year under firm rate schedules or contracts for firm service must be determined.

(3) Firm sales purchase deficiency volumes for each subsequent year must be determined.

(4) A fixed charge based on each customer's cumulative deficiencies as compared to total cumulative deficiencies must be derived. The filing pipeline will be free to select for rate calculation and filing purposes a reasonable amortization period for buyout and buydown costs being recovered through fixed charges or volumetric surcharges. The pipeline will be entitled to interest at the rate set forth in part 154 of this chapter on unamortized amounts.

(c) *Implementing procedures.* (1) Pipelines acting pursuant to this section may submit on or before December 31, 1990, a non-PGA rate filing under section 4(e) of the Natural Gas Act. Pipelines may include in their filings a fixed charge and a volumetric surcharge to recover buyout and buydown costs actually paid as of the date of filing plus similar costs which are known and measurable within the following nine months. Detailed support for the amounts claimed and for the calculation of customer surcharges must be provided. In addition, the pipeline must disclose and describe all consideration, both cash and noncash, given to producers in exchange for take-or-pay relief.

(2) In any filings made under this section, pipelines must include proposals for periodic (preferably annual) adjustments to customer surcharges, together with any necessary accounting procedures, designed to assure that revenues recovered by the pipeline remain in balance with buyout and buydown costs covered by the filing and actually incurred by the pipeline.

(d) *Prudence.* (1) The Commission will examine the issue of prudence if it is raised by a party in an individual proceeding. If it is raised, the pipeline will be required to demonstrate the prudence of take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs which it seeks to recover from its customers through both fixed and volume-based charges.

(2) The Commission intends to exercise its authority to the full extent permitted by the Natural Gas Act to approve take-or-pay settlements. The Commission intends to approve uncontested take-or-pay settlements which are consistent with this section and found to be in the public interest. The Commission will also, if it appears reasonable and permissible to do so, approve contested settlements as to all consenting parties and initiate separate hearings to establish the rates for opposing parties. Alternatively, the Commission will approve contested settlements on the merits if supported by substantial evidence in the record. In any case where hearings are held as to the prudence of take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs, the Commission will permit the pipeline the opportunity to recover all take-or-pay costs found to be prudent from the contesting parties on a proportional basis, even if the amount allowed is greater than the amounts initially sought to be recovered by the pipeline.

(e) *Flowthrough by downstream pipelines.* Downstream pipelines must flow through approved take-or-pay fixed charges based on the cumulative purchase deficiencies of their customers. Volumetrically-based surcharges must be flowed through on a volumetric basis. Customers of downstream pipelines have the right in connection with either PGA or general rate filings to challenge the purchasing practices of such pipelines. Remedies for purchasing practices found by the Commission to be imprudent will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

(f) *Ongoing proceedings.* Pipeline rate proceedings pending September 15, 1987 may be utilized as a forum for implementing the approved cost recovery mechanisms set forth in this section. Permission will be granted in cases where implementation of this policy in pending proceedings appears feasible, will not result in inordinate delay, or can be expected to result in unnecessary or cumulative rate filings with the Commission. In the event permission is granted, the presiding judge(s) will allow pipelines to supplement their filings to the extent necessary to assure compliance with the filing and data requirements set forth herein. The presiding judges shall also establish any procedures necessary to protect the rights of all parties. Any rates established pursuant to this section will be permitted to become effective only

prospectively upon Commission approval.

(g) *Scope.* This section does not go beyond the Commission's determination in the April 10, 1985, policy statement (Docket No. PL85–1–000) that take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs do not violate the pricing provision of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA). It is not intended to affect take-or-pay prepayments made by pipelines and included in account 165 and in their rate bases. Nor does it address the issue of whether take-or-pay prepayments to a producer for gas not taken and which cannot be made up violate the Title I pricing provisions of the NGPA. This policy statement applies only to buyout and buydown costs paid by pipelines that are transporting under part 284 of this chapter, under existing contracts, and is not intended to disturb in any way take-or-pay settlements previously entered into between pipelines and their producer suppliers.

[Order 500, 52 FR 30351, Aug. 14, 1987, as amended at 52 FR 35539, Sept. 22, 1987; Order 500–F, 53 FR 50924, Dec. 19, 1988; 54 FR 52394, Dec. 21, 1989; Order 581, 60 FR 53064, Oct. 11, 1995]

§ 2.105 Gas supply charges.

An interstate natural gas pipeline that transports under part 284 of this chapter may include in its tariff a charge, not related to facilities, for standing ready to supply gas to sales customers in accordance with the following principles:

(a) The pipeline may not recover take-or-pay or similar charges from suppliers by any other means.

(b) The pipeline must allow its sales customers to nominate levels of service freely within their firm sales entitlements or otherwise employ a mechanism for the renegotiation of levels of service at regular intervals.

(c) The pipeline must announce prior to nominations by the customers a firm price or pricing formula for the service, and hold that price or pricing formula firm during the interval arranged in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) By nominating a new level of service lower than its current level, a customer has consented to any abandonment sought by the pipeline commensurate with the difference between the current level of service and the nominated level.

[Order 500, 52 FR 30352, Aug. 14, 1987; 52 FR 35539, Sept. 22, 1987, and 54 FR 52394, Dec. 21, 1989]

RULES OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

§ 2.201 [Reserved]

STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS UNDER THE NATURAL GAS POLICY ACT OF 1978

§ 2.300 Statement of policy concerning allegations of fraud, abuse, or similar grounds under section 601(c) of the NGPA.

Recognizing the potential for an increasing number of intervenor complaints predicated on the fraud, abuse, or similar grounds exception to guaranteed passthrough, the Commission sets forth the elements of a cognizable claim under section 601(c)(2) which it expects to apply in cases in which fraud, abuse, or similar grounds is raised. The provisions of this policy statement do not establish a binding norm but instead provide general guidance. In particular cases, both the underlying validity of the policy and its application to particular facts may be challenged and are subject to further consideration. The procedure prescribed conforms with the NGPA's general guarantee of passthrough by placing the burden of pleading the elements and proving the elements of a case on intervenors who would allege fraud, abuse, or similar grounds as a basis for denying passthrough of gas prices incurred by an interstate pipeline.

(a) In order for the issue of fraud, as that term is used in section 601(c) of the NGPA, to be considered in a proceeding, an intervenor or intervenors must file a complaint alleging that:

(1) The interstate pipeline, any first seller who sells natural gas to the interstate pipeline, or both acting together, have made a fraudulent misrepresentation or concealment; and

(2) Because of that fraudulent misrepresentation or concealment, the amount paid by the interstate pipeline to any first seller of natural gas was higher than it would have been absent the fraudulent conduct.

(b) In order for the issue of abuse, as that term is used in section 601(c) of the NGPA, to be considered in a proceeding, an intervenor or intervenors must file a complaint alleging that:

(1) The interstate pipeline, a first seller who sells to the interstate pipeline, or both acting together, have made a negligent misrepresentation or concealment, or other misrepresentation or concealment in disregard of a duty; and

(2) Because of that negligent misrepresentation or concealment, or other misrepresentation or concealment in disregard of a duty, the amount paid by the interstate pipeline to any first seller of natural gas was higher than it would have been absent the negligent misrepresentation or concealment, or other misrepresentation or concealment made in disregard of a duty.

(c) In order for the issue of similar grounds, as that term is used in section 601(c) of the NGPA, to be considered in a proceeding, an intervenor or intervenors must file a complaint alleging that:

(1) The interstate pipeline, any first seller who sells natural gas to the interstate pipeline, or both acting together, have made an innocent misrepresentation of fact; and

(2) Because of that innocent misrepresentation of facts, the amount paid by the interstate pipeline to any first seller of natural gas was higher than it would have been absent the innocent misrepresentation of fact.

(Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95–621, 92 Stat. 3350, (15 U.S.C. 3301–3432))

[47 FR 6262, Feb. 11, 1982]

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETATION UNDER THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978

§ 2.400 Statement of interpretation of waste concerning natural gas as the primary energy source for qualifying small power production facilities.

For purposes of deciding whether natural gas may be considered as waste as the primary energy source pursuant to § 292.204(b)(1)(i) of this chapter, the Commission will use the criteria described in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this section.

(a) *Category 1.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, natural gas with a heating value of 300 Btu per standard cubic foot (scf) or below will be considered unmarketable.

(b) *Category 2.* In determining whether natural gas with a heating value above 300 Btu but not more than 800 Btu per scf and natural gas produced in the Moxa Arch area is unmarketable, the Commission will consider the following information:

(1) The percentages of the chemical components of the gas, the wellhead pressure, and the flow rate;

(2) Whether the applicant offered the gas to all potential buyers located within 20 miles of the wellhead under terms and conditions commensurate with those prevailing in the region and that such potential buyers refused to buy the gas; and

(3) A study, which may be submitted by an applicant, that evaluates the economics of upgrading the gas for sale and transporting the gas to a pipeline. The study should include estimates of the revenues which could be derived from the sale of the gas and the fixed and variable costs of upgrading.

(c) *Category 3.* In determining whether natural gas with a heating value above 800 Btu per scf is marketable, the Commission will consider the information included in paragraph (b) of this section and whether:

(1) The gas has actually been flared, vented to the atmosphere, or continuously injected into a non-producing zone for a period of one year, pursuant to legal authority; or

(2) The gas has been certified as waste, *i.e.*, suitable for disposal, by an appropriate state authority.

[Order 471, 52 FR 19310, May 22, 1987]

STATEMENT OF PENALTY REDUCTION/WAIVER POLICY TO COMPLY WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT FAIRNESS ACT OF 1996

§ 2.500 Penalty reduction/waiver policy for small entities.

(a) It is the policy of the Commission that any small entity is eligible to be considered for a reduction or waiver of a civil penalty if it has no history of

previous violations, and the violations at issue are not the product of willful or criminal conduct, have not caused loss of life or injury to persons, damage to property or the environment or endangered persons, property or the environment. An eligible small entity will be granted a waiver if it can also demonstrate that it performed timely remedial efforts, made a good faith effort to comply with the law and did not obtain an economic benefit from the violations. An eligible small entity that cannot meet the criteria for waiver of a civil penalty may be eligible for consideration of a reduced penalty. Upon the request of a small entity, the Commission will consider the entity's ability to pay before assessing a civil penalty.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, the Commission reserves the right to waive or reduce civil penalties in appropriate individual circumstances where it determines that a waiver or reduction is warranted by the public interest.

[Order 594, 62 FR 15830, Apr. 3, 1997]

APPENDIX A TO PART 2—GUIDANCE FOR DETERMINING THE ACCEPTABLE CONSTRUCTION AREA FOR REPLACEMENTS

These guidelines shall be followed to determine what area may be used to construct the replacement facility. Specifically, they address what areas, in addition to the permanent right-of-way, may be used.

Pipeline replacement must be within the existing right-of-way as specified by §2.55(b)(1)(ii). Construction activities for the replacement can extend outside the current permanent right-of-way if they are within the temporary and permanent right-of-way and associated work spaces used in the original installation.

If documentation is not available on the location and width of the temporary and permanent rights-of-way and associated work space that was used to construct the original facility, the company may use the following guidance in replacing its facility, provided the appropriate easements have been obtained:

a. Construction should be limited to no more than a 75-foot-wide right-of-way including the existing permanent right-of-way for large diameter pipeline (pipe greater than 12 inches in diameter) to carry out routine construction. Pipeline 12 inches in diameter and smaller should use no more than a 50-foot-wide right-of-way.

b. The temporary right-of-way (working side) should be on the same side that was used in constructing the original pipeline.

c. A reasonable amount of additional temporary work space on both sides of roads and interstate highways, railroads, and significant stream crossings and in side-slope areas is allowed. The size should be dependent upon site-specific conditions. Typical work spaces are:

Item	Typical extra area (width/length)
Two lane road (bored)	25–50 by 100 feet.
Four lane road (bored)	50 by 100 feet.
Major river (wet cut)	100 by 200 feet.
Intermediate stream (wet cut)	50 by 100 feet.
Single railroad track	25–50 by 100 feet.

d. The replacement facility must be located within the permanent right-of-way or, in the case of nonlinear facilities, the cleared building site. In the case of pipelines this is assumed to be 50-feet-wide and centered over the pipeline unless otherwise legally specified.

However, use of the above guidelines for work space size is constrained by the physical evidence in the area. Areas obviously not cleared during the original construction, as evidenced by stands of mature trees, structures, or other features that exceed the age of the facility being replaced, should not be used for construction of the replacement facility.

If these guidelines cannot be met, the company should consult with the Commission's staff to determine if the exemption afforded by §2.55 may be used. If the exemption may not be used, construction authorization must be obtained pursuant to another regulation under the Natural Gas Act.

[Order 603, 64 FR 26603, May 14, 1999]

APPENDIX B TO PART 2 [RESERVED]

APPENDIX C TO PART 2—NATIONWIDE PROCEEDING COMPUTATION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX ALLOWANCE INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS, PIPELINE AFFILIATES AND PIPELINE PRODUCERS CONTINENTAL U.S.—1972 DATA (DOCKET NO. R–478)

Line No.	Particulars	Schedule No.	Line No.	(1)—Total [1]	(2)—Total excluding production taxes [2]	(3)—Gas only [3]	(4)—Lease separation [3]	(5)—No lease separation [3]	(6)—Total [4]	(7)—Percentage lease separation gas [5]	(8)—Allocated amount gas [6]
	PRODUCTION, EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS										
2 ...	Direct and indirect lease costs and expenses.	1–A	01	1,694,893,558	1,694,893,558	57,287,938	$144,679,567	$19,763,791	$221,731,296	90.33	207,740,782
2 ...	Taxes (except income and production).	A–1	02	210,335,720	210,335,720	16,507,630	20,431,444	4,360,024	41,299,098	9.33	39,323,337
4 ...	Production taxes	1–A	03	479,424,297		27,124,210	96,699,673	10,005,599	133,829,482	90.33	124,478,624
5 ...	Other lease expenses	1–A	04	61,102,433	61,102,433	17,527,077	24,988,900	336,427	42,852,404	90.33	40,435,977
6 ...	Depletion, depreciation and amortization.	1–A	05	1,716,823,070	1,716,823,070	105,999,777	297,881,312	25,502,048	429,383,137	90.33	400,578,014
7 ...	Corporate general expense	1–A	06	278,845,909	278,845,909	13,611,337	25,077,796	3,579,728	42,268,861	90.33	39,843,838
8 ...	Area, district, division and field expense.	1–A	07	261,718,417	26,178,417	7,207,320	21,758,604	2,778,944	31,744,868	90.33	29,640,811
9 ...	Miscellaneous lease revenues	1–A	09	(12,203,136)	(12,203,136)	(1,348,729)	(2,768,788)	(314,067)	(4,431,584)	90.33	(4,163,842)
10	Return on production rate base at 15 percent.	1–A	13	2,505,272,672	2,505,272,672	186,055,524	427,939,601	69,857,212	663,852,337	90.33	622,470,578
11	Exploration and development costs and expenses.	1–A	15	1,673,945,853	1,673,945,853						594,971,262
12	Return on exploration rate base at 15 percent.	1–A	16	588,558,894	588,558,894						234,604,103
13	Regulatory commission expense including return.	1–A	17	6,514,279	6,514,279						6,514,852
14.											
15	Total computed revenue			9,465,231,966	8,985,807,669						2,336,439,376
16	(gross income).										
17.											
18	revenue deductions.										
19	Direct and indirect lease costs and expenses.	1–A	01	1,694,893,558	1,694,893,558						207,740,872
20	Taxes (except income and production).	1–A	02	210,335,720	210,335,720						39,323,377
21	Production taxes	1–A	03	479,424,297							124,478,624
22	Other lease expenses	1–A	04	61,102,433	61,102,433						40,435,977
23	Book depletion			[7](283,121,142)	283,121,242	24,287,986	61,675,828	6,177,596	92,141,410	90.33	86,177,357
24	Depreciation expense	1–A	05	[7](654,604,447)	654,604,447	30,223,586	94,010,520	7,007,662	131,241,768	90.33	122,150,951
25	Amortization of capitalized IDC			[7](779,097,382)	779,097,382	51,488,205	142,194,964	12,316,790	205,999,959	90.33	192,249,706
26	Corporate general expense	1–A	06	278,845,909	278,845,909						39,843,838

Line No.	Particulars	Schedule No.	Line No.	(1)—Total [1]	(2)—Total excluding production taxes [2]	(3)—Gas only [3]	(4)—Lease separation [3]	(5)—No lease separation [3]	(6)—Total [4]	(7)—Percentage lease separation gas [5]	(8)—Allocated amount gas [6]
27	Area, district, division and field expense.	1–A	07	261,718,417	261,718,417	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29,640,811
28	Miscellaneous lease revenues	1–A	09	(12,203,136)	(12,203,136)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(4,163,842)
29	Exploration and development costs and expenses.	.....	.....	1,673,945,853	1,673,945,853	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	594,971,262
30	Regulatory commission expense ..	4–A	01	6,384,384	6,394,384	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,394,384
31.											
32	Total book expenses	.....	.....	6,371,380,505	5,891,856,209	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,479,243,227
33.											
34	Production net income (line 15 less line 32).	.....	.....	3,093,951,461	3,093,951,460	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	857,190,149
35.											
36	tax adjustment—add (DEDUCT).										
37	Amortization of capitalized IDC	.....	.....	779,097,282	779,097,382	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	192,249,706
38	Estimated IDC capitalized in 1972	.....	.....	[8] (1,470,935,857)	(1,470,935,857)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(362,967,445)
39	Interest expense (calculated)	.....	.....	[9] (243,846,540)	(243,846,540)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(60,587,136)
40.											
41	Taxable income	.....	.....	2,158,266,445	2,158,266,445	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	625,891,274
42.											
43	Federal income tax at 48 percent.	.....	.....	1,992,245,949	1,992,245,949	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	[10] 577,745,791

[1] Lines 1 thru 15, col. (1). From Notice issued Sept. 12, 1974, app. A, p. 12, col. (d).
[2] Production taxes have been deleted from col. (1).
[3] From notice issued Sept. 12, 1974, app. A, p. 12, cols. (g), (h), and (i).
[4] Col. (3) plus col. (4) plus col. (5).
[5] Calculated on a modified British thermal unit basis (1.5 to 1).
[6] Col. (7) times col. (4), plus cols. (3) and (5).
[7] See composites mailed to all parties on Feb. 13, 1974.
[8] Calculated, 188.8 percent (A R64–1–2) times $779,097,382 equals $1,470,935,857.
[9] Calculated 0.0146 (interest rate) times $16,701,817,818 (app. A, schedule 2–A, (d), line 11, p. 13) equals $243,846,540.
[10] $577,745,791 divided by 9,508,369,001 equals 6.08 cents per thousand cubic feet.

[Opinion 749, 41 FR 3092, Jan. 21, 1976]

PART 3 [RESERVED]

PART 3a—NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

GENERAL

AUTHORITY: E.O. 11652 (37 FR 5209, March 10, 1972), National Security Council Directive of May 17, 1972 (37 FR 10053, May 19, 1972), sec. 309 of the Federal Power Act (49 Stat. 858, 859; 16 U.S.C. 825h) and sec. 16 of the Natural Gas Act (52 Stat. 830; 15 U.S.C. 717*o*).

SOURCE: Order 470, 38 FR 5161, Feb. 26, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL

§ 3a.1 Purpose.

This part 3a describes the Federal Power Commission program to govern the classification, downgrading, declassification, and safeguarding of national security information. The provisions and requirements cited herein are applicable to the entire agency except that material pertaining to personnel security shall be safeguarded by the Personnel Security Officer and shall not be considered classified material for the purpose of this part.

§ 3a.2 Authority.

Official information or material referred to as classified in this part is expressly exempted from public disclosure by 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1). Wrongful disclosure thereof is recognized in the Federal Criminal Code as providing a basis for prosecution. E.O. 11652, March 8, 1972 (37 FR 5209, March 10, 1972), identifies the information to be protected, prescribes classification, downgrading, declassification, and safeguarding procedures to be followed and establishes a monitoring system to insure its effectiveness. National Security Council Directive Governing the Classification, Downgrading, Declassification and Safeguarding of National Security Information, May 17, 1972 (37 FR 10053, May 19, 1972), implements E.O. 11652.

CLASSIFICATION

§ 3a.11 Classification of official information.

(a) *Security Classification Categories.* Information or material which requires protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of the national defense or foreign relations of the United States (hereinafter collectively termed *national security*) is classified Top Secret, Secret or Confidential, depending upon the degree of its significance to national security. No other categories are to be used to identify official information or material requiring protection in the interest of national security, except as otherwise expressly provided by statute. These classification categories are defined as follows:

(1) *Top Secret.* Top Secret refers to national security information or material which requires the highest degree of protection. The test for assigning Top Secret classification is whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. Examples of *exceptionally grave damage* include armed hostilities against the United States or its allies; disruption of foreign relations vitally affecting the national security; the compromise of vital national defense plans or complex cryptologic and communications intelligence systems; the revelation of sensitive intelligence operations; and the disclosure of scientific or technological developments vital to national security. This classification is to be used with the utmost restraint.

(2) *Secret.* Secret refers to national security information or material which requires a substantial degree of protection. The test for assigning Secret classification shall be whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national security. Examples of *serious damage* include disruption of foreign relations significantly affecting the national security; significant impairment of a program or policy directly related to the national security; revelation of significant military plans or intelligence operations; and compromise of significant scientific or technological developments relating to national security. The classification Secret shall be sparingly used.

(3) *Confidential.* Confidential refers to national security information or material which requires protection, but not to the degree described in paragraphs (a) (1) and (2) of this section. The test for assigning Confidential classification shall be whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the national security.

(b) Classified information will be assigned the lowest classification consistent with its proper protection. Documents will be classified according to their own content and not necessarily according to their relationship to other documents.

(c) The overall classification of a file or group of physically connected documents will be at least as high as that of the most highly classified document therein. When put together as a unit or complete file, the classification of the highest classified document contained therein will be marked on a cover sheet, file folder (front and back), or other similar covering, and on any transmittal letters, comments, or endorsements.

(d) *Administrative Control Designations.* These designations are not security classification designations, but are used to indicate a requirement to protect material from unauthorized disclosure. Material identified under the provisions of this subparagraph will be handled and protected in the same manner as material classified Confidential except that it will not be subject to the central control system described in §3a.71. Administrative Control designations are:

(1) *For Official Use Only.* This designation is used to identify information which does not require protection in the interest of national security, but requires protection in accordance with statutory requirements or in the public interest and which is exempt from public disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552(b) and §388.105(n) of this chapter.

(2) *Limited Official Use.* This administrative control designation is used by the Department of State to identify nondefense information requiring protection from unauthorized access. Material identified with this notation must be limited to persons having a definite need to know in order to fulfill their official responsibilities.

(e) A letter or other correspondence which transmits classified material will be classified at a level at least as high as that of the highest classified attachment or enclosure. This is necessary to indicate immediately to persons who receive or handle a group of documents the highest classification involved. If the transmittal document does not contain classified information, or if the information in it is classified lower than in an enclosure, the originator will include a notation to that effect. (See §3a.31(e).)

[Order 470, 38 FR 5161, Feb. 26, 1973, as amended by Order 225, 47 FR 19055, May 3, 1982]

§ 3a.12 Authority to classify official information.

(a) The authority to classify information or material originally under E.O. 11652 is restricted to those offices within the executive branch which are concerned with matters of national security, and is limited to the minimum number absolutely required for efficient administration.

(b) The authority to classify information or material originally as Top Secret is to be exercised only by such officials as the President may designate in writing and by the heads of the following departments and agencies and such of their principal staff officials as the heads of these departments and agencies may designate in writing;

Such offices in the Executive Office of the President as the President may designate in writing.
Central Intelligence Agency.
Atomic Energy Commission.
Department of State.
Department of the Treasury.
Department of Defense.
Department of the Army.
Department of the Navy.
Department of the Air Force.
U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
Department of Justice.
National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
Agency for International Development.

(c) The authority to classify information or material originally as Secret is exercised only by:

(1) Officials who have Top Secret classification authority under § 3a.11(b); and

(2) The heads of the following departments and agencies and such principal staff officials as they may designate in writing:

Department of Transportation.
Federal Communications Commission.
Export-Import Bank of the United States.
Department of Commerce.
U.S. Civil Service Commission.
U.S. Information Agency.
General Services Administration.
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
Civil Aeronautics Board.
Federal Maritime Commission.
Federal Power Commission.
National Science Foundation.
Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

(d) The authority to classify information or material originally as Confidential is exercised by officials who have Top Secret or Secret classification authority.

(e) Pursuant to E.O. 11652, the authority to classify information or material originally as Secret or Confidential in the FPC shall be exercised only by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the Executive Director. When an incumbent change occurs in these positions, the name of the new incumbent will be reported to the Interagency Classification Review Committee NSC.

§ 3a.13 Classification responsibility and procedure.

(a) Each FPC official who has classifying authority (§ 3a.12) shall be held accountable for the propriety of the classifications attributed to him. Unnecessary classification and overclassification shall be avoided. Classification shall be solely on the basis of national security considerations. In no case shall information be classified in order to conceal inefficiency or administrative error, to prevent embarrassment to the FPC or any of its officials or employees, or to prevent for any other reason the release of information which does not require protection in the interest of national security.

(b) Each classified document shall show on its face its classification and whether it is subject to or exempt from the General Declassification Schedule (§ 3a.22(b)). It also shall show the office of origin, the date of preparation and classification and, to the extent practicable, be so marked as to indicate which portions are classified, at what level, and which portions are not classified in order to facilitate excerpting and other use. Material which merely contains references to classified materials, which references do not reveal classified information, shall not be classified.

(c) Material classified under this part shall indicate on its face the identity of the highest authority authorizing the classification. Where the individual who signs or otherwise authenticates a document or item has also authorized the classification, no further annotation as to his identity is required.

(d) Classified information or material furnished to the United States by a foreign government or international organization shall either retain its original classification or be assigned a U.S. classification. In either case, the classification shall assure a degree of protection equivalent to that required by the government or international organization which furnished the information or material.

(e) Whenever information or material classified by an authorized official is incorporated in another document or other material by any person other than the classifier, the previously assigned security classification category shall be reflected thereon together with the identity of the classifier.

(f) As a holder of classified information or material, the FPC shall observe and respect the classification assigned by the originator. If it is believed that there is unnecessary classification; that the assigned classification is improper, or that the document is subject to declassification under E.O. 11652, the FPC will so inform the originator who is then required by the Executive order to reexamine the classification.

DECLASSIFICATION AND DOWNGRADING

§ 3a.21 Authority to downgrade and declassify.

(a) The authority to downgrade and declassify information or material shall be exercised as follows:

(1) Information or material may be downgraded or declassified by the official authorizing the original classification, by a successor or by a supervisory official of either.

(2) Downgrading and declassification authority may also be exercised by an official specifically authorized under regulations issued by the head of the Department listed in sections 2 A and B of E.O. 11652, March 10, 1972.

(3) In the case of classified information or material transferred pursuant to statute or Executive order in conjunction with a transfer of function and not merely for storage purposes, the receiving department or agency shall be deemed to be the originating department or agency for all purposes under E.O. 11652, including downgrading and declassification.

(4) In the case of classified information or material not officially transferred under paragraph (a)(3) of this section, but originated in a department or agency which has since ceased to exist, each department or agency in possession shall be deemed to be the originating department or agency for all purposes. Such information or material may be downgraded and declassified after consulting with any other departments or agencies having an interest in the subject matter.

(5) Classified information or material transferred to the General Services Administration for accession to the Archives of the United States shall be downgraded and declassified by the Archivist of the United States in accordance with E.O. 11652, directives of the President issued through the National Security Council, and pertinent regulations of the departments and agencies.

§ 3a.22 Declassification and downgrading.

(a) When classified information of material no longer requires the level of protection assigned to it, it shall be downgraded or declassified in order to preserve the effectiveness and integrity of the classification system. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Executive Director exercise downgrading and declassification authority in the FPC.

(b) Information and material classified prior to June 1, 1972, and assigned to Group 4 under E.O. 10501, as amended by E.O. 10964, unless declassified earlier by the original classifying authority, shall be declassified and downgraded in accordance with the following General Declassification Schedule.

(1) *Top Secret.* Information or material originally classified TOP SECRET becomes automatically downgraded to Secret at the end of the second full calendar year following the year in which it was originated, downgraded to Confidential at the end of the fourth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated, and declassified at the end of the 10th full calendar year following the year in which it was originated.

(2) *Secret.* Information and material originally classified Secret becomes

automatically downgraded to Confidential at the end of the second full calendar year following the year in which it was originated, and declassified at the end of the eighth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated.

(3) *Confidential.* Information and material originally classified Confidential becomes automatically declassified at the end of the sixth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated.

(c) To the fullest extent applicable, there shall be indicated on each such FPC originated classified document whether it can be downgraded or declassified at a date earlier than under the above schedule, or after a specified event, or upon the removal of classified attachments or enclosures. Classified information in the possession of the Federal Power Commission, but not bearing a marking for automatic downgrading or declassification, will be marked or designated by the Chairman or the Security Officer designated by § 3a.51 hereof for automatic downgrading or declassification in accordance with the rules and regulations of the department or agency which originally classified the information or material.

(d) When the FPC official having classification authority downgrades or cancels the classification of a document before its classification status changes automatically, each addressee to whom the document was transmitted shall be notified of the change unless the addressee has previously advised that the document was destroyed. Addressees must be notified similarly when it has been determined that a document must be upgraded.

(e) When classified information from more than one source is incorporated into a new document or other material, the document or other material shall be classified, downgraded, or declassified in accordance with the provisions of E.O. 11652 and NSC directives thereunder applicable to the information requiring the greatest protection.

(f) All information or material classified prior to June 1, 1972, other than that described in paragraph (b) of this section, is excluded from the General Classification Schedule. However, at any time after the expiration of 10 years from the date of origin it shall be subject to classification review and disposition by FPC provided:

(1) A department or agency or member of the public requests review;

(2) The request describes the record with sufficient particularity to enable FPC to identify it; and

(3) The record can be obtained with a reasonable amount of effort.

(g) All classified information or material which is 30 years old or more will be declassified under the following conditions:

(1) All information and material classified after June 1, 1972, will, whether or not declassification has been requested, become automatically declassified at the end of 30 full calendar years after the date of its original classification except for such specifically identified information or material which the Chairman personally determines in writing to require continued protection because such continued protection is essential to the national security, or disclosure would place a person in immediate jeopardy. In such case, the Chairman also will specify the period of continued classification.

(2) All information and material classified before June 1, 1972 and more than 30 years old will be systematically reviewed for declassification by the Archivist of the United States by the end of the 30th full calendar year following the year in which it was originated. In his review, the Archivist will separate and keep protected only such information or material as is specifically identified by the Chairman in accordance with paragraph (g) (1) of this section. In such case, the Chairman also will specify the period of continued classification.

(3) The Executive Director, acting for the Chairman, is assigned to assist the Archivist of the United States in the exercise of his responsibilities indicated in paragraph (g)(2) of this section. He will:

(i) Provide guidance and assistance to archival employees in identifying and separating those materials originated in FPC which are deemed to require continued classification; and

(ii) Develop a list for submission to the Chairman which identifies the materials so separated, with recommendations concerning continued classification. The Chairman will then make the determination required under paragraphs (g) (1) and (2) of this section and cause a list to be created which identifies the documents included in the determination, indicates the reason for continued classification, and specifies the date on which such material shall be declassified.

§ 3a.23 Review of classified material for declassification purposes.

(a) All information and material classified after June 1, 1972, and determined in accordance with Chapter 21, title 44, United States Code, to be of sufficient historical or other value to warrant preservation shall be systematically reviewed on a timely basis for the purpose of making such information and material publicly available according to the declassification determination at the time of classification. During each calendar year the FPC shall segregate to the maximum extent possible all such information and material warranting preservation and becoming declassified at or prior to the end of such year. Promptly after the end of such year the FPC, or the Archives of the United States if transferred thereto, shall make the declassified information and material available to the public to the extent permitted by law.

(b) Departments and agencies and members of the public may direct requests for review for declassification, as described in § 3a.22(f), to:

Office of the Secretary, Federal Power Commission,[1] Washington, DC 20426.

The Office of the Secretary will assign the request to the appropriate Bureau or Office for action and will acknowledge in writing the receipt of the request. If the request requires the rendering of services for which fair and equitable fees should be charged pursuant to Title 5 of the Independent Offices Appropriations Act, 1952, 31 U.S.C. 483a, the requester shall be so notified. The Bureau or Office which is assigned action will make a determination within 30 days of receipt or explain why further time is necessary. If at the end of 60 days from receipt of the request for review no determination has been made, the requester may apply to the FPC Review Committee (paragraph (g) of this section) for a determination. Should the Bureau or Office assigned the action on a request for review determine that under the criteria set forth in section 5(B) of E.O. 11652 continued classification is required, the requester will be notified promptly and, whenever possible, provided with a brief statement as to why the requested information or material cannot be declassified. The requester may appeal any such determination to the FPC Review Committee and the notice of determination will advise him of this right.

(c) The FPC Review Committee will establish procedures to review and act within 30 days upon all applications and appeals regarding requests for declassification. The chairman, acting through the committee, is authorized to overrule previous determinations in whole or in part when, in its judgment, continued protection is no longer required. If the committee determines that continued classification is required under the criteria of section 5(B) of E.O. 11652, it will promptly so notify the requester and advise him that he may appeal the denial to the Interagency Classification Review Committee.

(d) A request by a department or agency or a member of the public to review for declassification documents more than 30 years old shall be referred directly to the Archivist of the United States, and he shall have the requested documents reviewed for declassification. If the information or material requested has been transferred to the General Services Administration for accession into the Archives, the Archivist shall, together with the chairman, have the requested documents reviewed for declassification. Classification shall be continued in either case only when the chairman makes the personal determination indicated in § 3a.22(g)(1).

[1] Now known as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Archivist shall notify the requester promptly of such determination and of his right to appeal the denial to the Interagency Classification Review Committee.

(e) For purposes of administrative determinations under paragraph (b), (c), or (d) of this section, the burden is on the FPC to show that continued classification is warranted. Upon a determination that the classified material no longer warrants classification, it will be declassified and made available to the requester if not otherwise exempt from disclosure under section 552(b) of Title 5, U.S.C. (Freedom of Information Act) or other provisions of law.

(f) A request for classification review must describe the document with sufficient particularity to enable the FPC to identify it and obtain it with a reasonable amount of effort. Whenever a request is deficient in its description of the record sought, the requester will be asked to provide additional identifying information whenever possible. Before denying a request on the ground that it is unduly burdensome, the requester will be asked to limit his request to records that are reasonably obtainable. If the requester then does not describe the records sought with sufficient particularity, or the record requested cannot be obtained with a reasonable amount of effort, the requester will be notified of the reasons why no action will be taken and of his right to appeal such decision.

(g) The FPC Review Committee will consist of the Executive Director, as Committee Chairman, the Secretary, and the Director, Office of Public Information, as members. In addition to the activities described in this paragraph, the Review Committee has authority to act on all suggestions and complaints with respect to administration of E.O. 11652 and this part 3a.

(h) The FPC Review Committee is also responsible for recommending to the chairman appropriate administrative action to correct abuse or violation of any provision of E.O. 11652 or NSC directives thereunder, including notifications by warning letter, formal reprimand, and to the extent permitted by law, suspension without pay and removal.

(i) The Chairman of the Review Committee will submit through the chairman, FPC, a report quarterly to the Interagency Classification Review Committee, NSC, of actions on classification review requests, classification abuses, and unauthorized disclosures.

CLASSIFICATION MARKINGS AND SPECIAL NOTATIONS

§ 3a.31 Classification markings and special notations.

(a) After the chairman, the vice chairman, or the executive director determines that classified information is contained in an original document or other item, the appropriate marking, i.e., Secret or Confidential, will be applied as indicated herein. In addition, each classified document will reflect its date of origin and the Bureau, Office, or Regional Office responsible for its preparation and issuance, and the identity of the highest authority authorizing the classification. Where the individual who signs or otherwise authenticates the document or other item has also authorized the classification, no further annotation as to his identity is required. Each classified document will also show on its face whether it is subject to or exempt from the General Declassification Schedule described in § 3a.22(b).

(1) For marking documents which are subject to the General Declassification Schedule, the following stamp will be used:

(Top Secret, Secret, or Confidential) Classified by _____. Subject to General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652, automatically downgraded at 2-year intervals and declassified on December 31, _____ (insert year).

(2) For marking documents which are to be automatically declassified on a given event or date earlier than the General Declassification Schedule the following stamp will be used:

(Top Secret, Secret, or Confidential) Classified by _____. Automatically declassified on _____ (effective date or event).

(3) For marking documents which are exempt from the General Declassification Schedule the following stamp will be used:

(Top Secret, Secret, or Confidential) Classified by _____. Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652, Exemption Category (section 5B (1), (2), (3), or (4). Automatically declassified on _____ (effective date or event, if any).

(b) Should the classifier fail to mark such document with one of the foregoing stamps, the document shall be deemed to be subject to the General Declassification Schedule. The person who signs or finally approves a document or other material containing classified information shall be deemed to be the classifier. If the classifier is other than such person he shall be identified on the stamp as indicated.

(c) On documents, the classification markings Secret and Confidential will be stamped in red ink, printed, or written in letters considerably larger than those used in the text of the document. On documents which are typewritten in elite, pica or executive size type, the above markings should be in letters not less than three-sixteenths inch in height. No markings, other than those indicated above, are authorized to designate that a document or material requires protection in the interests of national security. The overall classification assigned to a document will be conspicuously marked on the top and bottom of each page and on the outside of the front and back covers, if any. Letters of transmittal, endorsements, routing slips, or any other papers of any size which conceal or partially conceal the cover, the title page, or first page, will bear the marking of the overall classification.

(d) Whenever a classified document contains either more than one security classification category or unclassified information, each section, part or paragraph should be marked to the extent practicable to show its classification category or that it is unclassified.

(e) Letters of transmittal or other covering documents which are classified solely because of classified enclosures or attachments, or which are classified in a lower category than such enclosures or attachments, will bear either of the following markings, as appropriate.

(1) If the covering document is classified on its own, but has enclosures or attachments of a higher classification, or is a component (i.e., an endorsement or comment) or a file in which other components bear a higher classification:

Regarded _____
(appropriate classification)
When separated from _____
(identify higher classified components)

(2) If unclassified when separated from its classified enclosures or attachments:

When the Attachments Are Removed, This Transmittal Letter Becomes Unclassified.

(f) In addition to the classification category markings prescribed above, the first or title page of each classified document will contain instructions as appropriate, in accordance with the following:

(1) *Regarding instructions.* The declassification and downgrading notation, as described in § 3a.31(g) will be applied to classified documents only. The notation will not be carried forward to unclassified letters of transmittals or other cover documents. When such cover documents are classified by their own content, they will be annotated with the notwithstanding instructions which pertain to the enclosures.

(2) ''*Special Handling*'' *notation.* Classified information will not be released or disclosed to any foreign national without proper specific authorization. This applies even when the classified material does not bear the special handling notice described below. The special handling notice indicated only that the material has been reviewed and a specific determination made that the information is not releasable to foreign nationals. If it is anticipated that the handling or distribution of a classified document will make it liable to inadvertent disclosure to foreign nationals it will be marked with a separate special handling notation, which will be carried forward to letters of transmittals or other cover documents. The notation reads:

Special Handling Required Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals

(g) Whenever classified material is upgraded, downgraded, or declassified, the material will be marked to reflect:

(1) The change in classification.

(2) The authority for the action.
(3) The effective date.
(4) The person or unit taking the action.

When classification changes are made, the classification markings themselves will be changed or canceled, and each copy or item of the material will be marked with the citation of authority. The notation below will be used for this purpose:

Classification _____ (changed)
_____ (canceled)
To _____
Effective on _____ (date)
Under authority of _____ (authorizing official or office)
By _____ (person or office taking action)

(h) In addition to the foregoing marking requirements, warning notices shall be displayed prominently on classified documents or materials as prescribed below. When display of these warning notices on the documents or other materials is not feasible, the warnings shall be included in the written notification of the assigned classification.

(1) *Restricted data.* For classified information or material containing restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended:

RESTRICTED DATA

This document contains restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Its dissemination or disclosure to any unauthorized person is prohibited.

(2) *Formerly restricted data.* For classified information or material containing solely Formerly Restricted Data, as defined in section 142.d, Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended:

FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA

Unauthorized disclosure subject to administrative and criminal sanctions. Handle as restricted data in foreign dissemination, section 114.b., Atomic Energy Act, 1954.

(3) *Information other than restricted data or formerly restricted data.* For classified information or material furnished to persons outside the Executive Branch of Government other than as described in paragraphs (h)(1) and (2) of this section.

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized disclosure subject to criminal sanctions.

(4) *Sensitive intelligence information.* For classified information or material relating to sensitive intelligence sources and methods, the following warning notice shall be used, in addition to and in conjunction with those prescribed in paragraph (h)(1), (2), or (3), of this section, as appropriate:

Warning Notice—Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved

ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED MATERIALS

§ 3a.41 Access requirements.

(a) The Personnel Security Officer, on a continuing current basis, will certify to the Security Officer, the head of each bureau and office and each regional engineer, the names of officers and employees who have been granted a security clearance for access to classified material and the level of such clearance (Top Secret, Secret, Confidential). The Personnel Security Officer will maintain accurate and current listings of personnel who have been granted security clearances in accordance with the standards and criteria of Executive Orders 10450 and 10865 and as prescribed by this part.

(b) In addition to a security clearance, staff members must have a need for access to classified information or material in connection with the performance of duties. The determination for the need-to-know will be made by the official having responsibility for the classified information or material.

(c) When a staff member no longer requires access to classified information or material in connection with performance of official duties, the Personnel Security Officer will administratively withdraw the security clearance. Additionally, when a staff member no longer needs access to a particular security classification category, the security clearance will be adjusted to the classification category required. In both cases, this action will

be without prejudice to the staff member's eligibility for a security clearance or upgrading of category should the need again arise.

(d) Access to classified information or material originated by the FPC may be authorized to persons outside the Executive Branch of the Government engaged in historical research and to former Presidential appointees as provided in paragraphs VI B and C of the NSC directive dated May 17, 1972. The determination of access authorization will be made by the Chairman.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947, 61 Stat. 495, 50 U.S.C. 403, classified information or material originating in one department or agency shall not be disseminated outside any other department or agency to which it has been made available without the consent of the originating organization.

SECURITY OFFICERS

§ 3a.51 Designation of security officers.

(a) The Director, Office of Administrative Operations (OAO) is designated as Top Secret Control Officer and Security Officer for classified material for the Federal Power Commission. The Director, OAO, will designate alternate Top Secret Control Officers and alternated Security Officers, who will be authorized, subject to such limitations as may be imposed by the Director, to perform the duties for which the Top Secret Control Officer and Security Officer is responsible. As used hereinafter, the terms Top Secret Control Officer and Security Officer shall be interpreted as including the alternate Top Secret Control Officers and Security Officers. The FPC Security Officer is authorized and directed to insure the proper application of the provisions of Executive Order 11652 and of this part.

(b) Regional Engineers are designated as Regional Security Officers for the purpose of carrying out the functions assigned herein.

(c) The Director, OAO, will appoint in writing appropriately cleared staff members to act as couriers for transmittal, as necessary, for classified information or material.

STORAGE AND CUSTODY OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

§ 3a.61 Storage and custody of classified information.

(a) Unless specifically authorized by the Chairman or Executive Director, classified information and materials within the Washington office will be stored only in GSA-approved security containers in the Office of Administrative Operations. Such containers will be of steel construction with built-in, three-position, dial-type, manipulation-proof, changeable combination locks.

(b) A custodian and one or more alternate custodians will be assigned responsibility for the security of each container under his jurisdiction in which classified information is stored. Such assignment will be made a matter of record by executing GSA Optional Form 63, Classified Container Registration, and affixing it to the container concerned. Custodians will be responsible for assuring that combinations are changed as required and that locking and checking functions are accomplished daily in compliance with paragraphs (g) and (h) of this section.

(c) GSA Optional Form 63 is a 3-sheet form, each sheet having a specific purpose and disposition, as follows:

(1) Sheet 1 records the names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of the custodian and alternate custodians. Sheet 1 is affixed to the outside of the container.

(2) Sheet 2 records the combination of the container and is placed inside Sheet 3, which is an envelope.

(3) Sheet 3, an envelope, is a carbon copy of Sheet 1. When the container combination is recorded on Sheet 2, it is sealed inside Sheet 3 which is then forwarded to the FPC Top Secret Control Officer.

(d) GSA Optional Form 62, Safe or Cabinet Security Record, will be attached conspicuously to the outside of each container used to store classified information. The form is used to certify the opening and locking of a container, and the checking of a container at the end of each working day or whenever it is opened and locked during the day.

(e) Combinations of containers used to store classified materials will be assigned classifications equal to the highest category of classified information stored therein. Active combinations are subject to the safeguarding and receipting requirements of this instruction. Superseded combinations become declassified automatically and certificates of destruction therefore are unnecessary.

(f) Knowledge of or access to the combination of a container used for the storage of classified material will be given only to those appropriately cleared individuals who are authorized access to the information stored therein.

(g) Combinations of containers used to store classified material will be changed at least once a year. A combination will be changed also whenever anyone knowing or having access to it is transferred; when the combination has been subjected to compromise; when the security classification of the container is upgraded; and at any other time as may be deemed necessary. Combinations to locks on security containers will be changed only by individuals having a security clearance equal to the highest category of classified material stored therein. Changing lock combinations is a responsibility of OAO. (See FPC Special Instruction No. AM 2162.2, Periodic Change of Combination on Locks.)

(h) The individual who unlocks a container will indicate the date and time and initial entry on GSA Optional Form 62. At the close of each workday, or when the container is locked at earlier time, the individual locking the container will make the appropriate entry on GSA Optional Form 62. An individual other than the one who locked the container will check to insure that it is properly closed and locked and will make the appropriate entry on GSA Optional Form 62. When a container has not been opened during the day, the checker will enter the date and the notation ''Not Opened'' and make appropriate entry in the ''Checked By'' column.

(i) The red and white reversible ''Closed-Open'' cardboard sign will be used on all classified containers to indicate whether the container is open or locked.

(j) Typewriter ribbons used in the preparation of classified information will be safeguarded in the manner appropriate for the degree of classification involved. Cloth ribbons are considered insecure until both upper and lower lines have been cycled through the typewriter at least twice. Carbon paper or film ribbons are insecure at all times since the imprint thereon cannot be obliterated and such ribbon must be destroyed as classified waste. Insecure ribbons will not be left in typewriters overnight but will be stored in appropriate classified container.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

§ 3a.71 Accountability for classified material.

(a) The Office of Administrative Operations is the central control registry for the receipt and dispatch of classified material in the Washington office and maintains the accountability register of all classified material. In addition, each Regional Engineer will maintain an accountability register for classified material of which he has custody.

(b) With the exception of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Executive Director, no individual, bureau, or office is authorized to receive, open, or dispatch classified material other than the authorized personnel in OAO or the Regional Engineers. Classified material received by other than the OAO or Regional Engineers will be delivered promptly and unopened to the Security Officer or Regional Engineer in order that it may be brought under accountable control.

(c) Each classified document received by or originating in the FPC will be assigned an individual control number by the central control registry, OAO. Control numbers will be assigned serially within a calendar year. The first digit of the four-digit control number will indicate the calendar year in which the document was originated or received in the FPC. Control numbers assigned to top secret material will be separate from the sequence for other classified

material and will be prefixed by the letters ''TS''. Examples:

9006—Sixth classified document controlled by the central control registry in calendar year 1969.
TS 1006—Sixth Top Secret document controlled by the central control registry in calendar year 1971.

(d) The accounting system for control of classified documents will be effected through the use of FPC Form 55, Classified Document Control Record and Receipt. This form will be used to:

(1) Register an accurate, unclassified description of the document; its assigned control number; and the date it is placed under accountability.

(2) Serve as the accountability register for classified material.

(3) Record all changes in status or custody of the document during its classification life or the period it is retained under accountability in the FPC.

(4) Serve as the principal basis for all classified document inventory and tracer actions.

(5) Serve as a receipt for the central control registry when the document is transferred.

(e) For Top Secret documents only, an access register, FPC Form 1286, Top Secret Access Record, for recording the names of all individuals having access to the document, will be prepared in addition to FPC Form 55. In addition, a physical inventory of all Top Secret documents will be conducted during June of each year by the Top Secret Control Officer and witnessed by a staff member holding a Top Secret clearance.

(f) When classified documents are regraded, declassified, or destroyed, the change in status will be recorded in the file copy of FPC Form 55 in the central control registry.

(g) Classified documents will not be reproduced by any means except on the specific written authority of the FPC Security Officer.

(h) In the Washington Office, classified material will be destroyed by OAO and will be accomplished by burning in the presence of a *destroying official* and a *witnessing official*. Destroying and witnessing officials will be alternate Security Officers from OAO. A record of destruction of each classified document will be maintained on FPC Form 1285. Classified Document Destruction Certificate. In addition, the date of destruction and the destruction certificate number will be recorded on the file copy of FPC Form 55 in the central control registry. The original signed copy of the destruction certificate will be retained in the central control registry. The duplicate copy will be retained by the destroying official. Regional Engineers will follow these instructions for destruction of classified material in their possession, except that the destroying official shall be the Regional Engineer and the witnessing official shall be any other individual having appropriate security clearance.

(i) It is the responsibility of any staff member who has knowledge of the loss or possible compromise of classified information immediately to report the circumstances to the Director, OAO. The Director, OAO, will notify the originating Department and any other interested Department of the loss or possible compromise in order that a damage assessment can be conducted. An immediate inquiry will be initiated by the Director, OAO, for the purpose of taking corrective action and for recommendations to the chairman, through the Review Committee, for appropriate administrative, disciplinary, or legal action.

TRANSMITTAL OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

§ 3a.81 Transmittal of classified material.

(a) A continuous receipting system, using copies of FPC Form 55, will record all transfers of classified items between elements or officials within the FPC. Receipts for transmittal of classified items from the central registry to the first recipient will be acknowledged on copy number one (original) of FPC Form 55. This copy will be returned to and become part of the central register, where it will remain as an active record until the item is either destroyed or transmitted outside the FPC control registry system. Receipts for subsequent transmittals through the FPC will be recorded on the remaining copies of FPC Form 55.

(b) A recipient will acknowledge receipt and assumption of custody of

classified material exactly as it is described on FPC Form 55. If it is determined that parts are missing, it is incorrectly numbered, or otherwise recorded in error on FPC Form 55. The recipient will not sign for the material but will return it promptly to the transmitting element, notifying them accordingly.

(c) Whenever a classified or protected document is being internally transmitted, or is in use, it will be covered by either FPC Label 19, Top Secret Cover Sheet (yellow); FPC Label 20, Secret Cover Sheet (red); FPC Label 21, Confidential Cover Sheet (blue), or FPC Label 22, Official Use Only (Limited Official Use) green. In addition, the red back sheet, FPC Label 23, will be used. With the exception of the FPC Form 55, no transmittal paper or other material will be placed over the label, and no writing will be applied thereon.

(d) The transmission or transfer of custody of classified material outside of the FPC Washington offices or the Regional Offices will be covered by FPC Form 1284, Classified Document Receipt and/or Tracer, prepared in duplicate (one post card and one paper copy). The post card will be enclosed, along with the material being transferred, in the inner envelope, wrapping or container, and the paper copy retained in the central registry pending return of the signed post card.

(e) Classified material transmitted outside of the FPC Washington offices or the Regional Offices will be dispatched in two opaque envelopes or double wrapped in opaque wrapping paper. The outgoing material will be prepared for transmission by:

(1) Preparing and enclosing an appropriate receipt (see paragraph (d) of this section) in the inner envelope or wrapping.

(2) Addressing, return addressing, and sealing or taping the inner envelope or wrapping.

(3) Marking the security classification and other required notations on the front and back of the inner cover. If the nature of the contents deem it necessary or advisable, the inner cover may be marked with the following or a similar notation ''To Be Opened By Addressee Only.'' When this notation is used, an appropriate ''Attention'' line must be contained in the address on the outer envelope to insure delivery to the intended recipient.

(4) Enclosing the inner envelope or wrapping in an opaque outer envelope wrapper containing the appropriate address information. These outer covers will not contain any of the markings contained on the inner cover. If the outer cover does not fully conceal the markings on the inner envelope or wrapper, a sheet of plain paper should be folded around the inner wrapper to conceal the markings.

(f) Transmittal of Top Secret information and material shall be effected preferably by oral discussion in person between the officials concerned. Otherwise the transmission of Top Secret information and material shall be by specifically designated personnel, by State Department diplomatic pouch, by a messenger-courier system especially created for that purpose, over authorized communications circuits in encrypted form or by other means authorized by the National Security Council.

(g) Transmittal of material classified Secret or Confidential to any addressee in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia, the State of Hawaii, the State of Alaska, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Canadian Government installations by the FPC Washington offices or the Regional offices will be by registered mail only. Transmittal outside these specified areas will be as stated in paragraph C(2), Appendix B, of the NSC Directive of May 17, 1972.

DATA INDEX SYSTEM

§ 3a.91 Data index system.

A data index system shall be established for Top Secret, Secret, and Confidential information in selected categories prescribed by the Interagency Classification Review Committee, in accordance with section VII of the National Security Council Directive Governing the Classification, Downgrading, Declassification, and Safeguarding of National Security Information, May 17, 1972.

PART 3b—COLLECTION, MAINTENANCE, USE, AND DISSEMINATION OF RECORDS OF IDENTIFIABLE PERSONAL INFORMATION

Subpart A—General

Subpart B—Standards for Maintenance and Collection of Records

Subpart C—Rules for Disclosure of Records

Subpart D—Rules for Exemptions

AUTHORITY: Federal Power Act, as amended, sec. 309, 49 Stat. 858–859 (16 U.S.C. 825h); Natural Gas Act, as amended, sec. 16, 52 Stat. 830 (15 U.S.C. 717o); and Pub. L. 93–579 (88 Stat. 1896).

SOURCE: Order 536, 40 FR 44288, Sept. 25, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 3b.1 Purpose.

Part 3b describes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's program to implement the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93–579, 88 Stat. 1896) to allow individuals to have a say in the collection and use of information which may be used in determinations affecting them. The program is structured to permit an individual to determine what records pertaining to him and filed under his individual name, or some other identifying particular, are collected, maintained, used or disseminated by the Commission, to permit him access to such records, and to correct or amend them, and to provide that the Commission collect, use, maintain and disseminate such information in a lawful manner for a necessary purpose.

[Order 536, 40 FR 44288, Sept. 25, 1975, as amended by Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§ 3b.2 Definitions.

In this part:

(a) *Agency*, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 551(1) as ''* * * each authority of the Government of the United States, whether or not it is within or subject to review by another agency, * * *'', includes any executive department, military department, Government corporation, Government controlled corporation, or other establishment in the executive branch of the Government (including the Executive Office of the President), or any independent regulatory agency [5 U.S.C. 552(e)];

(b) *Individual* means a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

(c) *Maintain* includes, maintain, collect, use, or disseminate;

(d) *Record* means any item, collection or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by an agency, including, but not limited to, his education, financial transactions, medical history, and criminal or employment history and that contains his name, or the identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual, such as a finger or voice print or a photograph;

(e) *System of records* means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual;

(f) *Statistical record* means a record in a system of records maintained for statistical research or reporting purposes only and not used in whole or in part in making any determination about an identifiable individual, except as provided by section 8 of title 13 of the United States Code;

(g) *Routine use* means, with respect to the disclosure of a record, the use of such record for a purpose which is compatible with the purpose for which it was collected; and

(h) *Disclosure* means either the transmittal of a copy of a record or the granting of access to a record, by oral, written, electronic or mechanical communication.

§ 3b.3 Notice requirements.

(a) The Commission will publish at least annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice identifying the systems of records currently maintained by the Commission. For each system of records, the notice will include the following information:

(1) The name and location of the system;

(2) The categories of individuals on whom records are maintained in the system;

(3) The categories of records maintained in the system;

(4) The specific statutory provision or executive order, or rule or regulation issued pursuant thereto, authorizing the maintenance of the information contained in the system;

(5) Each routine use of the records contained in the system, including the categories of users and the purposes of such use;

(6) The policies and practices regarding the storage, retrievability, access controls, and retention and disposal of the records;

(7) The title and business address of the Commission official who is responsible for the system of records;

(8) The procedures whereby an individual can be notified at his request if the system of records contains a record pertaining to him;

(9) The procedures whereby an individual can be notified at his request how he can gain access to any record pertaining to him contained in the system of records, and how he can contest its contents; and

(10) The categories of sources of records in the system.

(b) At least thirty days prior to its operation, the Commission will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of its intention to establish a new system of records reciting the information required pursuant to paragraphs (a) (1) through (10) of this section and notice of any major change to an existing system.

(c) The Commission will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of its intention to establish any new or intended routine use of the information in an existing system of records at least thirty days prior to the disclosure of the record for that routine use. A new routine use is one which involves disclosure of records for a new purpose compatible with the purpose for which the record is maintained or which involves disclosure to a new recipient or category of recipients. At a minimum, the notice will contain the following information:

(1) The name of the system of records for which the routine use is to be established;

(2) The authority authorizing the maintenance of the information contained in the system;

(3) The categories of records maintained in the system;

(4) The proposed routine use(s);

(5) The categories of recipients for each proposed routine use; and

(6) Reference to the public notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER under which the existing system had already been published.

§ 3b.4 Government contractors.

Systems of records operated by a contractor, pursuant to a *contract*, on behalf of the Commission, which are designed to accomplish a Commission function, are considered, for the purposes of this part, to be maintained by the Commission. A *contract* covers any contract, written or oral, subject to the Federal Procurement Regulations. The contractual instrument will specify, to the extent consistent with the Commission's authority to require it, that the systems of records be maintained in accordance with the requirements of this part.

§ 3b.5 Legal guardians.

For the purposes of this part, the parent of any minor, or the legal guardian of any individual who has been declared to be incompetent due to physical or mental incapacity or age by a

court of competent jurisdiction, may act on behalf of the individual.

Subpart B—Standards for Maintenance and Collection of Records

§ 3b.201 Content of records.

(a) All records which are maintained by the Commission in a system of records will contain only such information about an individual that is relevant and necessary to accomplish a purpose of the Commission as required to be accomplished by statute or by executive order of the President. Pursuant to §3b.3(a)(4) of this part, the Commission will identify in the FEDERAL REGISTER the specific provisions in law which authorize it to maintain information in a system of records. In determining the *relevance* and *necessity* of records, the following considerations will govern:

(1) Whether each item of information relates to the purposes, in law, for which the system is maintained;

(2) The adverse consequences, if any, of not collecting the information;

(3) Whether the need for the information could be met through the maintenance of the information in a non-individually identifiable form;

(4) Whether the information in the record is required to be collected on every individual who is the subject of a record in the system or whether a sampling procedure would suffice;

(5) The length of time it is necessary to retain the information;

(6) The financial cost of maintaining the record as compared to the adverse consequences of not maintaining it; and

(7) Whether the information, while generally relevant and necessary to accomplish a statutory purpose, is specifically relevant and necessary only in certain cases.

(b) All records which the Commission maintains in a system of records and which are used to make a determination about an individual will be maintained with such accuracy, relevance, timeliness, and completeness as is reasonably necessary to assure fairness to the individual in the determination. Where practicable, in questionable instances, reverification of pertinent information with the individual to whom the record pertains may be appropriate. In pursuit of *completeness* in the collection of information, the Commission will limit its records to those elements of information which clearly bear on the determination for which the records are intended to be used, assuring that all elements necessary to the determination are present before the determination is made.

(c) Prior to disseminating any records in a system of records, the Commission will make reasonable efforts to assure that such records are as accurate, relevant, timely, and complete as appropriate for the purposes for which they are collected and/or maintained, except when they are disclosed to a member of the public under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended, or to another agency.

(d) No records of the Commission in a system of records shall describe how any individual exercises his First Amendment rights unless expressly authorized by statute or by the individual about whom the record is maintained or unless pertinent to and within the scope of an authorized law enforcement activity. The exercise of these rights includes, but is not limited to, religious and political beliefs, freedom of speech and of the press, and freedom of assembly and petition. In determining whether or not a particular activity constitutes the exercise of a right guaranteed by the First Amendment, the Commission will apply the broadest reasonable interpretation.

§ 3b.202 Collection of information from individuals concerned.

(a) Any information collected by the Commission for inclusion in a system of records which may result in adverse determinations about an individual's rights, benefits, and privileges under Federal programs, will, to the greatest extent practicable, be collected directly from the subject individual (see paragraph (d) of this section).

(b) The Commission will inform each individual whom it asks to supply information about himself, on the form which it uses to collect the information, or on a separate sheet that can be easily retained by the individual, in

language which is explicit, informative, and easily understood, and not so lengthy as to deter an individual from reading it, of:

(1) The specific provision of the statute or executive order of the President, including the brief title or subject of that statute or order which authorizes the solicitation of the information; whether disclosure of such information is mandatory or voluntary; and whether the Commission is authorized or required to impose penalties for failing to respond;

(2) The principal purpose or purposes for which the information is intended to be used;

(3) The routine uses which may be made of the information, as described in the FEDERAL REGISTER in the notice of the system of records in which the information is maintained, and which are relatable and necessary to a purpose described pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section; and

(4) The effects (beneficial and adverse) on the individual if any, of not providing all or any part of the requested information.

(c) Social security numbers will not be required from individuals whom the Commission asks to supply information unless the disclosure of the number is required by Federal statute or unless disclosure is to the Commission maintaining a system of records in existence and operating before January 1, 1975, if such disclosure was required pursuant to a statute or regulation adopted prior to such date to verify the identity of an individual. When an individual is requested to disclose his social security number to the Commission, he will be informed under what statutory or other authority such number is solicited, what uses will be made of it, whether disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, and if it is mandatory, under what provisions of law or regulation.

(d) The use of third-party sources to collect information about an individual may be appropriate in certain circumstances. In determining when the use of third-party sources would be appropriate, the following considerations will govern:

(1) When the information needed can only be obtained from a third party;

(2) When the cost of collecting the information directly from the individual concerned far exceeds the cost of collecting it from a third party;

(3) When there is little risk that the information proposed to be collected from the third party, if inaccurate, could result in an adverse determination about the individual concerned.

(4) When there is a need to insure the accuracy of information supplied by an individual by verifying it with a third party, or there is a need to obtain a qualitative assessment of the individual's capabilities or character; or

(5) When there are provisions for verifying any third-party information with the individual concerned before making a determination based on that information.

Third party sources, where feasible, will be informed of the purposes for which information which they are asked to provide will be used. In appropriate circumstances, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k) (2), (5), and (7), the Commission may assure a third party that his identity will not be revealed to the subject of the collected information.

§ 3b.203 Rules of conduct.

(a) The Executive Director of the Commission has the overall administrative responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 and overseeing the conduct of all Commission employees with respect to the act.

(b) It is the responsibility of the Comptroller of the Commission, under the guidance of the Executive Director, to prepare the appropriate internal administrative procedures to assure that all persons involved in the design, development, or operation of any system of records, or in collecting, using, or disseminating any individual record, and who have access to any system of records, are informed of all rules and requirements of the Commission to protect the privacy of the individuals who are the subjects of the records, including the applicable provisions of the FERC Standards of Conduct for Employees, Special Government Employees and Commissioners.

(c) The Director, Human Resources Division, is responsible for establishing and conducting an adequate training

program for such persons whose official duties require access to and collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of such records.

(d) The General Counsel of the Commission is responsible for providing legal interpretation of the Privacy Act of 1974, and for preparing all agency rules and notices for official publication in compliance with the act.

(e) Commission employees will be informed of all the implications of their actions in this area, including especially:

(1) That there are criminal penalties for knowing and willful unauthorized disclosure of material within a system of records; for willful failure to publish a public notice of the existence of a system of records; and for knowingly and willfully requesting or obtaining records under false pretenses;

(2) That the Commission may be subject to civil suit due to failure to amend an individual's record in accordance with his request or failure to review his request in conformity with §3b.224; refusal to comply with an individual's request of access to a record under §3b.221; willful or intentional failure to maintain a record accurately pursuant to §3b.201(b) and consequently a determination is made which is adverse to the individual; or willful or intentional failure to comply with any other provision of the Privacy Act of 1974, or any rule promulgated thereunder, in such a way as to have an adverse effect upon an individual.

[Order 536, 40 FR 44288, Sept. 25, 1975, as amended by Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§3b.204 Safeguarding information in manual and computer-based record systems.

(a) The administrative and physical controls to protect the information in the manual and computer-based record systems from unauthorized access or disclosure will be specified for each system in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The system managers, who are responsible for providing protection and accountability of such records at all times and for insuring that the records are secured in proper containers whenever they are not in use or under direct control of authorized persons, will be identified for each system of records in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) Whenever records in the manual or computer-based record systems, including input and output documents, punched cards, and magnetic tapes or disks, are not under the personal control of an authorized person, they will be stored in lockable containers and/or in a secured room, or in alternative storage systems which furnish an equivalent or greater degree of physical security. In this regard, the Commission may refer to security guidelines prepared by the General Services Administration, the Department of Commerce (National Bureau of Standards), or other agencies with appropriate knowledge and expertise.

(c) Access to and use of records will only be permitted to persons pursuant to §§3b.221, 3b.224, and 3b.225. Access to areas where records are stored will be limited to those persons whose official duties require work in such areas. Proper control of data, in any form, associated with the manual and computer-based record systems will be maintained at all times, including maintenance of an accounting of removal of the records from the storage area.

Subpart C—Rules for Disclosure of Records

§3b.220 Notification of maintenance of records to individuals concerned.

(a) Upon written request, either in person or by mail, to the appropriate system manager specified for each system of records, an individual will be notified whether a system of records maintained by the Commission and named by the individual contains a record or records pertaining to him and filed under his individual name, or some other identifying particular.

(b) The system manager may require appropriate identification pursuant to §3b.222, and if necessary, may request from the individual additional information needed to locate the record which the individual should reasonably be expected to know, such as, but not limited to, date of birth, place of birth, and a parent's first name.

(c) When practicable, the system manager will provide a written acknowledgement of the inquiry within ten days of receipt of the inquiry (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal public holidays) and notification of whether or not a system of records maintained by the Commission and named by the individual contains a record pertaining to him and filed under his individual name or some other identifying particular. If the system manager is unable to provide an answer within the ten-day period, he will so inform the individual in writing, stating the reasons therefor (for good cause shown), and when it is anticipated that notification will be made. Such an extension will not exceed fifteen days from receipt of the inquiry (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays).

(d) *For good cause shown*, as used in all sections of this part, includes circumstances such as the following: Where a search for and/or collection of requested records from inactive storage, field offices, or other establishments is required; where a voluminous amount of data is involved; where information on other individuals must be separated or expunged from the record; or where consultations are required with other agencies or with others having a substantial interest in the determination of the request.

§ 3b.221 Access of records to individuals concerned.

(a) Upon written request, either in person or by mail, to the appropriate system manager specified for each system of records, any individual may gain access to records or information in a system of records pertaining to him and filed under his individual name, or some other identifying particular, to review and to have a copy made of all or any portion thereof in a form comprehensible to him.

(b) A person of his own choosing may accompany the individual to whom the record pertains when the record is disclosed [see § 3b.222(e)].

(c) Before disclosure, the following procedure may apply:

Medical or psychological records will be disclosed directly to the individual to whom they pertain unless, in the judgment of the system manager, in consultation with a medical doctor or a psychologist, access to such records could have an adverse effect upon the individual. When the system manager and a doctor determine that the disclosure of such information could have an adverse effect upon the individual to whom it pertains, the system manager may transmit such information to a medical doctor named by the requesting individual.

(d) The system manager will provide a written acknowledgement of the receipt of a request for access within ten days of receipt (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays). Such acknowledgement may, if necessary, request any additional information needed to locate the record which the individual may reasonably be expected to know, and may require appropriate identification pursuant to § 3b.222 of this part. No acknowledgment is required if access can be granted within the ten-day period.

(1) If access can be granted, the system manager will notify the individual, in writing, as to when, and whether access will be granted in person or by mail, so that access will be provided within twenty days of the receipt of the request (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays). If the system manager is unable to provide access within twenty days of receipt of the request, he will inform the individual in writing as to the reasons therefor (for good cause shown), and when it is anticipated that access will be granted. If the expected date of access indicated in the written notification to the individual cannot be met, the system manager will advise the individual in writing of the delay, the reasons therefor (for good cause shown), and of a revised date when access will be granted. Such extensions will not exceed thirty days from receipt of the request (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays).

(2) If access cannot be granted, the system manager will inform the individual, in writing, within twenty days of receipt of the request (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) of the refusal of his request; the reasons for the refusal; the right of the individual, within thirty days of receipt of the refusal, to request in writing a review of the refusal by the

Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or by an officer designated by the Chairman pursuant to §3b.224(f); and the right of the individual to seek advice or assistance from the system manager in obtaining such a review.

(e) The Chairman, or officer designated pursuant to §3b.224(f), not later than thirty days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) from the date of receipt of the individual's request for review will complete such review, unless, for good cause shown, the Chairman, or designated officer, extends the thirty-day period in writing to the individual with reasons for the delay and the approximate date on which the review is expected to be completed. Such an extension will not exceed thirty-five days from receipt of the request for review (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal public holidays). The Chairman, or designated officer, will make one of the following determinations:

(1) Grant the individual access to the requested record and notify the individual, in writing, as to when, and whether access will be granted in person or by mail; or

(2) Inform the individual in writing of the refusal, the reasons therefor, and the right of the individual to seek judicial review of the refusal of his request for access.

(f)(1) The Commission will deny an individual access to the following records pertaining to him:

(i) Information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action or proceeding;

(ii) Records listed in the FEDERAL REGISTER as exempt from certain provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, pursuant to subpart D of this part; and

(iii) Records which may be required to be withheld under other statutory provisions.

(2) The Commission will not deny an individual access to a record pertaining to him because that record is permitted to be withheld from members of the public under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended.

(g) Disclosure of an original record will take place in the presence of the Commission representative having physical custody of the record.

[Order 536, 40 FR 44288, Sept. 25, 1975, as amended by Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§ 3b.222 Identification requirements.

The appropriate system manager specified for each system of records will require reasonable identification from individuals to assure that records in a system of records are disclosed to the proper person. Identification requirements will be consistent with the nature of the records being disclosed.

(a) Disclosure of records to the individual to whom the record pertains, or under whose name or some other identifying particular the record is filed, in person, requires that the individual show an identification card. Employee identification, a Medicare card, or a driver's license are examples of acceptable identification. Documents incorporating a picture and signature of the individual are preferred.

(b) For records disclosed by mail, the system manager will require certain minimum identifying information: name, date of birth, or the system's personal identifier if known to the individual. A comparison of the signatures of the requester and those in the record will be used to determine identity.

(c) If the system manager determines that the data in the record is so sensitive that unauthorized access could cause harm or embarrassment to the individual involved, a signed notarized statement asserting identity or some other reasonable means to verify identity will be required.

(d) If an individual can provide no suitable information or documents for identification, the system manager will require a signed statement from the individual asserting his identity and stipulating that the individual understands that knowingly or willfully seeking or obtaining access to records about an individual under false pretenses is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $5,000.

(e) The system manager will require an individual who wishes to be accompanied by another person when reviewing his records to furnish a signed written statement authorizing discussion

of his records in the presence of the accompanying person.

(f) The appropriate identification requirements of this section may be required by a system manager from an individual to whom a record does not pertain who seeks access to the record pursuant to § 3b.225 of this part.

(g) No individual will be denied notification of maintenance of a record pursuant to § 3b.220 or access to a record pursuant to §§ 3b.221 and 3b.224 for refusing to disclose a social security number.

(h) No verification of identity will be required of individuals seeking notification of or access to records which are otherwise available to a member of the public under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended.

§ 3b.223 Fees.

(a) Fees will be charged for the direct cost of duplication of records in a system of records when copies are requested by the individual seeking access to the records. Any person may obtain a copy of the Commission's schedule of fees by telephone, by mail or by coming in person to the office of the appropriate system manager who is responsible for the protection and accountability of the desired record. Requests for copies of requested records and payment therefor must be made to the system manager. Fees will only be charged for costs of $2 or more.

(b) Where practicable, self-service duplication of requested documents may also be made on duplicating machines by the person requesting the records, on a reimbursable basis to the system manager, in the presence of the Commission representative having physical custody of the record. Where data has been extracted from one of the Commission's systems of records on magnetic tape or disks, or computer files, copies of the records of these files may be secured on a reimbursable basis upon written request to the appropriate system manager. The fee will vary for each requirement, depending on size and complexity.

(c) No fee will be charged in the following instances:

(1) When the system manager determines that he can grant access to records only by providing a copy of the record through the mail because he cannot provide reasonable means for the individual to have access in person;

(2) For search and review of requested records to determine if they fall within the disclosure requirements of this part; and

(3) When the system manager makes a copy of the record as a necessary part of the process of making it available for review.

(d) Except for requests made by Government agencies, certification of copies of any official Commission record shall be accompanied by a fee of $2 per document.

§ 3b.224 Requests to amend records and disputes thereon.

(a) Upon written request, either in person or by mail, to the appropriate system manager specified for each system of records, any individual may amend records in a system of records pertaining to him and filed under his individual name or some other identifying particular. Such requests should contain identifying information needed to locate the record, a brief description of the item or items of information to be amended, and information in support of the request for amendment. The individual may obtain assistance in preparing his request to amend a record from the appropriate system manager.

(b) The system manager will provide a written acknowledgement of the receipt of a request to amend within ten days of receipt (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays). Such an acknowledgement may, if necessary, request any additional information needed to make a determination which the individual may reasonably be expected to know, and verification of identity consistent with § 3b.222. The acknowledgement will clearly describe the request and advise the individual requesting the amendment when he may expect to be notified of action taken on the request. No acknowledgement is required if the request can be reviewed, processed, and the individual notified of compliance or denial within the ten-day period.

(c) The system manager will complete the review and advise the individual in writing of the results within

twenty days of the receipt of the request (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays). If the system manager is unable to complete the review within twenty days of the receipt of the request, he will inform the individual in writing as to the reasons therefor (for good cause shown) and when it is anticipated that the review will be completed. If the completion date for the review indicated in the acknowledgement cannot be met, the system manager will advise the individual in writing of the delay, the reasons therefor (for good cause shown), and of a revised date when the review may be expected to be completed. Such extensions will not exceed thirty days from receipt of the request (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays). The system manager will take one of the following actions:

(1) Make the requested correction or amendment; so advise the individual in writing; and, where an accounting of the disclosure of the record was made pursuant to §3b.226, advise all previous recipients of the record in writing of the fact that the amendment was made and the substance of the amendment [see §3b.225(d)]; or

(2) Inform the individual in writing of the refusal to amend the record in accordance with the request; the reasons for the refusal including any of the standards which were employed pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section in conducting the review; the right of the individual, within thirty days of receipt of the refusal, to request in writing a review of the refusal by the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or by an officer designated by the Chairman pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section; and the right of the individual to seek advice or assistance from the system manager in obtaining such a review.

(d) In reviewing a record in response to a request to amend, the system manager and the Chairman, or the officer he designates pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section, shall assess the accuracy, relevance, timeliness and completeness of the record. They shall consider the record in terms of the criteria established in §3b.201 of this part.

(e) The Chairman, or officer designated pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section, not later than thirty days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) from the date of receipt of the individual's request for review, will complete such review, unless, for good cause shown, the Chairman, or designated officer, extends the thirty-day period in a writing to the individual with reasons for the delay and the approximate date on which the review is expected to be completed. Such an extension will not exceed thirty-five days from receipt of the request for review (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays). The Chairman, or designated officer, will make one of the following determinations:

(1) Make the correction in accordance with the individual's request and proceed as in paragraph (c)(1) of this section; or

(2) Inform the individual in writing of:

(i) The refusal to amend the record in accordance with the request,

(ii) The reasons therefor, including any of the standards which were employed pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section in conducting the review;

(iii) The right of the individual to file with the Chairman, or designated officer, a concise written statement setting forth the reasons for his disagreement with the decision;

(iv) The fact that the statement of disagreement will be made available to anyone to whom the record is subsequently disclosed, together with the portion of the record which is disputed clearly noted, and, with, at the discretion of the Chairman, or designated officer, a brief statement by the Chairman, or designated officer, summarizing the reasons for refusing to amend the record;

(v) Where an accounting of the disclosure of the record was made pursuant to §3b.226 of this part, the fact that prior recipients of the disputed record will be provided a copy of the individual's statement of disagreement, with the portion of the record which is disputed clearly noted, and, at the Chairman's or designated officer's discretion, the statement summarizing the refusal to amend [see §3b.225(d)]; and

(vi) The individual's right to seek judicial review of the refusal to amend.

(f) The Chairman may designate, in writing, another officer of the Commission to act in his capacity for the purposes of this part. The officer will be organizationally independent of or senior to the system manager who made the initial determination and will conduct a review independent of the initial determination.

[Order 536, 40 FR 44288, Sept. 25, 1975, as amended by Order 737, 75 FR 43402, July 26, 2010]

§ 3b.225 Written consent for disclosure.

(a) The Commission will not disclose any record which is contained in a system of records by any means of communication to any person, or to any other agency, unless it has the written request by, or the prior written consent of, the individual to whom the record pertains and under whose individual name, or some other identifying particular, the record is filed. The written request or consent should include, at a minimum, the general purposes for or the types of recipients to whom disclosure may be made. The fact that an individual is informed of the purposes for which information will be used when information is collected pursuant to §3b.202(b)(2) will not constitute consent.

(b) A written request or consent is not required if the disclosure is:

(1) To those officers and employees of the Commission who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties;

(2) Required under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended;

(3) For a routine use as defined in §3b.2(g) of this part and as described in the public notice for each system of records;

(4) To the Bureau of the Census for purposes of planning or carrying out a census or survey or related activity pursuant to the provisions of title 13 of the United States Code;

(5) To a recipient who has provided the appropriate system manager specified for each system of records with advance adequate written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record, and the record is to be transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable. The written statement of assurance should include at a minimum:

(i) A statement of the purpose for requesting the record; and

(ii) Certification that the record will only be used for statistical purposes.

In addition to stripping personally identifying information from records released for statistical purposes, the system manager will ensure that the identity of the individual cannot reasonably be deduced or determined by combining various statistical records, or by reference to public records or other available sources of information;

(6) To the National Archives of the United States, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2103, as a record which has sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation by the United States Government, or for the evaluation by the Administrator of General Services or his designee to determine whether the record has such value;

(7) To another agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if the head of the agency or instrumentality, or his delegated official, has made a written request to the appropriate system manager specifying the particular portion of the record desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record is being sought;

(8) To a person pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of an individual (not necessarily the individual to whom the record pertains), if, upon disclosure, notification of such is sent to the last known address of the individual to whom the record pertains;

(9) To either House of Congress, or to any committee or subcommittee thereof, on a matter within its jurisdiction;

(10) To the Comptroller General, or any of his authorized representatives, in the course of the performance of the duties of the General Accounting Office; or

(11) Pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(c) When a record is disclosed under compulsory legal process and such process becomes a matter of public record, the system manager will make reasonable efforts to notify the individual to whom the record pertains. A notice will be sent to the individual's last known address noted in the Commission's files.

(d) The appropriate system manager shall notify all prior recipients of records, disclosure to whom an accounting was made pursuant to § 3b.226, of any amendments made to the records, including corrections, amendments and notations of dispute made pursuant to §§ 3b.224(c)(1) and 3b.224(e)(1) and (2)(v), within ten days of receipt of the corrected information or notation of dispute (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays), except under unusual circumstances [see circumstances described in § 3b.220(d)].

(e) The content of the records disclosed under this section shall be maintained pursuant to the standards established in § 3b.201(c).

§ 3b.226 Accounting of disclosures.

(a) The appropriate system manager specified for each system of records will keep an accurate written account of all disclosures of records made to any person or to any other agency with the written consent or at the written request of the individual to whom the record pertains and pursuant to § 3b.225(b)(3) through (11). The account will include the following information:

(1) The date, nature, and purpose of each disclosure;

(2) The name and address of the person or agency to whom the disclosure is made; and

(3) A reference to the justification or basis upon which the release was made, including reference to any written document required as when records are released for statistical or law enforcement purposes pursuant to § 3b.225(b)(5) and (7).

(b) Each system manager will retain the accounting made under paragraph (a) of this section for at least five years from the date of disclosure for which the accounting is made, or the life of the record, which ever is longer.

(c) Except for disclosures made for law enforcement purposes pursuant to § 3b.225(b)(7), and unless the system of records has been exempted from this provision pursuant to subpart D of this part, each system manager will make the accounting made under paragraph (a) of this section available to the individual named in the record at his written request.

(d) The accounting of disclosures is not a system of records under the definition in § 3b.2(e) and no accounting will be maintained for disclosure of the accounting of disclosures.

§ 3b.227 Mailing lists.

An individual's name and address maintained by the Commission will not be sold or rented for commercial or other solicitation purposes not related to the purposes for which the information was collected, unless such sale or rental is specifically authorized by law. This provision shall not be construed to require the withholding of names or addresses otherwise permitted to be made public, as pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended.

Subpart D—Rules for Exemptions

§ 3b.250 Specific exemptions.

Any system of records maintained by the Commission may be exempt from certain provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, and the appropriate sections of this part promulgated pursuant thereto, if the following requirements are met:

(a) The system of records falls within one or more of the following categories:

(1) Records subject to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1) as classified material;

(2) Investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes [except to the extent that the system is more broadly exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552a(j)(2) covering records maintained by an agency whose principal function pertains to the enforcement of criminal laws] provided, however, that is such record is used as a basis for denying an individual any right, privilege, or benefit to which the individual would be entitled in the absence of that record,

the individual must be granted access to that record except to the extent that access would reveal the identity of a confidential source who furnished the information to the Government under an express promise that his identity would be held in confidence, or, prior to September 27, 1975, under an implied promise that his identity would be held in confidence;

(3) Records maintained to provide protective services to the President of the United States or other individuals pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3056;

(4) Records required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(5) Investigatory material compiled solely for determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment, military service, Federal contracts, or access to classified information, but only to the extent that disclosure of such material would reveal the identity of a source who furnished information to the Government under an express promise that his identity would be held in confidence, or, prior to September 27, 1975, under an implied promise that his identity would be held in confidence;

(6) Testing or examination material used solely to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in the Federal service the disclosure of which would compromise the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process; or

(7) Material used to evaluate potential for promotion in the armed services, but only to the extent that the disclosure of such material would reveal the identity of a source who furnished the information to the Government under an express promise that his identity would be held in confidence, or, prior to September 27, 1975, under an implied promise that his identity would be held in confidence;

(b) Publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER is made in accordance with the requirements (including general public notice) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553, to include, at a minimum:

(1) The name of the system of records;

(2) The specific provision or provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, and the appropriate sections of this part promulgated pursuant thereto, from which the system is to be exempted; and

(3) The reasons for the exemption; and

(c) The system of records is exempted from one or more of the following provisions of the Privacy Act and the appropriate sections of this part promulgated pursuant thereto:

(1) 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3); 18 CFR 3b.226(c)—Making the accounting of disclosures available to the individual named in the record at his request;

(2) 5 U.S.C. 552a(d); 18 CFR 3b.221, 3b.224—Granting an individual the right of access to his records and permitting him to request amendment of such;

(3) 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(1); 18 CFR 3b.201(a)—Requiring maintenance of relevant and necessary information in a system of records as required by statute or Executive order of the President;

(4) 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4)(G); 18 CFR 3b.3(a)(8)—Requiring a description of procedures for determining if a system contains a record on an individual in the public notice of the system of records;

(5) 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4)(H); 18 CFR 3b.3(a)(9)—Requiring a description of procedures for gaining access to and contesting the contents of a record in the public notice of the system of records;

(6) 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4)(I); 18 CFR 3b.3(a)(10)—Requiring a description of the categories of the sources of records in the public notice of the system of records; and

(7) 5 U.S.C. 552a(f); 18 CFR 3b.220–3b.224—Requiring agency rules for determining if an individual is the subject of a record, for handling requests for access, for granting requests for access, for amending records, and for fees.

PART 3c—STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Sec.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 717g; 16 U.S.C. 825(b); 42 U.S.C. 7171, 7172.

SOURCE: Order 589, 61 FR 43415, Aug. 23, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3c.1 Cross-reference to employee ethical conduct standards and financial disclosure regulations.

Employees of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) are subject to the executive branch-wide financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR part 2634, the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch at 5 CFR part 2635, the Commission regulations at 5 CFR part 3401 which supplement the Standards of Ethical Conduct, and the executive branch-wide employee responsibilities and conduct regulation at 5 CFR part 735.

§ 3c.2 Nonpublic information.

(a) Section 1264(d) (42 U.S.C. 16452(d)) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005, section 301(b) (16 U.S.C. 825(b)) of the Federal Power Act, and section 8(b) (15 U.S.C. 717g) of the Natural Gas Act prohibit any employee, in the absence of Commission or court direction, from divulging any fact or information which may come to his or her knowledge during the course of examination of books or other accounts.

(b) The nature and time of any proposed action by the Commission are confidential and shall not be divulged to anyone outside the Commission. The Secretary of the Commission has the exclusive responsibility and authority for authorizing the initial public release of information concerning Commission proceedings.

[Order 589, 61 FR 43415, Aug. 23, 1996, as amended by Order 699, 72 FR 45323, Aug. 14, 2007]

§ 3c.3 Reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption and cooperation with official inquiries.

(a) Employees shall, in fulfilling the obligation of 5 CFR 2635.101(b)(11), report fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption in Commission programs, including on the part of Commission employees, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, or other recipients of Commission financial assistance, to the Office of Inspector General or other appropriate Federal authority.

(b) All alleged violations of the ethical restrictions described in § 3c.1 that are reported in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section to an appropriate authority within the Commission shall in turn be referred by that authority to the Designated Agency Ethics Official or his or her designee, or the Inspector General.

(c) Employees shall cooperate with official inquiries by the Inspector General; they shall respond to questions truthfully under oath when required, whether orally or in writing, and must provide documents and other materials concerning matters of official interest. An employee is not required to respond to such official inquiries if answers or testimony may subject the employee to criminal prosecution.