

between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3506 (c)(2)(A) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Director of the Information Resources Group, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department, (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate, (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: May 14, 1996.

Gloria Parker,

*Director, Information Resources Group.*

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Type of Review:* Emergency.

*Title:* Goals 2000 Comprehensive Local Reform Assistance.

*Abstract:* The Secretary proposes application requirements and selection criteria for Goals 2000 Comprehensive Local Reform Assistance grants. These grants assist local education agencies in the development and implementation of

comprehensive local improvement plans directed at enabling all children to reach challenging academic standards.

*Additional Information:* The Department of Education analyzes these applications to determine which applicants are best qualified to receive Federal funds under the law. Without the information supplied in this application, that judgment could not be objectively made and these appropriated funds could not be awarded.

*Frequency:* One-time.

*Affected Public:* State, local or Tribal Government, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 100.

Burden Hours: 5,000.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed new Form EIA-901, "Monthly Report of Natural Gas Marketers"; extension without changes to the Standby Form EIA-191S, "Weekly Underground Gas Storage Report", and Standby Form EIA-857S, "Weekly Report of Natural Gas Purchases and Deliveries to Consumers"; extension with changes to Forms EIA-176, "Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition", EIA-191, "Monthly Underground Gas Storage Report", EIA-857, "Monthly Report of Natural Gas Purchases and Deliveries to Consumers", and EIA-895, "Monthly Quantity and Value of Natural Gas Report"; and discontinuation of the Form EIA-627, "Annual Quantity and Value of Natural Gas Report".

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 19, 1996. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below of your intention to do so as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Margaret Natof, Reserves and Natural Gas Division, EI-441, Office of Oil and Gas,

Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, 202-586-6303, or E-mail to mnatof@eia.doe.gov, or FAX at 202-586-1076.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Requests for additional information or copies of the forms and instructions should be directed to Margaret Natof at the address listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments—General Issues and Specific Issues

#### I. Background

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91), the Energy Information Administration is obliged to carry out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program. As part of this program, EIA collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates data and information related to energy resource reserves, production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs.

The Energy Information Administration, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden (required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)), conducts a presurvey consultation program to provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing reporting forms. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden is minimized, reporting forms are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

Following is background information on each form in the clearance package:

Form EIA-176, "Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition"

The Form EIA-176 provides the EIA with the major elements of information required to combine and merge with data collected in other EIA surveys to develop natural gas supply and disposition balances and relevant gas

cost, price, and related information at the State level.

The information collected on the Form EIA-176 is needed and used by the DOE for the following purposes:

(1) to develop and make available to the Congress, the States, and the public an accurate assessment of the supply of natural and supplemental gas available to each of the States from all sources, both internal and external, and the manner in which such supply was utilized or otherwise disposed of;

(2) to determine the quantity of natural gas and supplemental gaseous fuels consumed within each of the States by market sector, the average price for such gas, and the changes in consumption and price patterns over time;

(3) to provide natural gas data to EIA publications including the Annual Energy Review, Annual Energy Outlook, and other EIA publications which are distributed to the Congress, government, industry, and the public; and

(4) to provide natural gas data for the Natural Gas Annual.

EIA-191, "Monthly Underground Gas Storage Report"

Form EIA-191 requests monthly data on the location, ownership, capacity, and operations of all active underground natural gas storage fields. Storage data are a critical link in understanding the deliverability of the natural gas system and overall system operations.

Information collected on the Form EIA-191 is used by the EIA in the following ways:

(1) to provide State level data on underground natural gas storage with respect to injections, withdrawals, inventories, type of storage facility, location, and capacity for the EIA's Natural Gas Monthly. This monthly data collection also provides reliable baseline data on storage operations necessary for analyses, modeling, and comparison with normal industry operations in case of severe weather, natural disasters, or other extreme circumstances;

(2) to provide data on underground natural gas operations for EIA's Monthly Energy Review, Annual Energy Review, Annual Energy Outlook, and Short Term Energy Outlook;

(3) to provide data on underground natural gas storage inventories monthly for various analyses and publications; and

(4) to provide data on all aspects of underground natural gas storage to enable EIA and other elements of DOE to identify and assess supplies of

natural gas in storage by geographic location on a timely basis.

EIA-857, "Monthly Report of Natural Gas Purchases and Deliveries to Consumers"

Monthly State level data collected on Form EIA-857 are aggregated by EIA and used to develop information on the average cost of gas purchased by natural gas distribution companies at their citygates, consumption of natural gas by sector, and average price of gas by sector. These data are necessary to provide timely information needed to measure the combined impact of government, industry, and consumer actions; geographic location; interfuel competition; climatic conditions; and other factors upon the natural gas industry and natural gas consumers.

Aggregate monthly data are published in EIA's Natural Gas Monthly and Monthly Energy Review, and are made available to the Congress, State governments, industry, and the public.

EIA-895, "Monthly Quantity of Natural Gas Report"

Form EIA-895 collects monthly data from the appropriate State agencies concerning natural gas production. It provides details on gross withdrawals from gas and oil wells, on volumes vented and flared, volumes used for repressuring, volumes of nonhydrocarbon gases removed, volumes used as fuel on leases, and the amount of natural gas available for market. These data are routinely collected by the States for taxation and statistical purposes.

The aggregate data are published in the Natural Gas Monthly, Natural Gas Annual, Monthly Energy Review, and Annual Energy Review.

Form EIA-901, "Monthly Survey of Natural Gas Marketers"

The proposed Form EIA-901 will provide EIA with information which will be used to estimate the average price of natural gas delivered to end users by State, month, and consuming sector.

The information collected on the EIA-901 will be compiled, combined with data from the Form EIA-857, and used by EIA to estimate monthly volume-weighted average prices of natural gas delivered to end users by sector in each of the States and the total for the United States. Data summaries will be published in the Natural Gas Monthly and Monthly Energy Review and will be made available to DOE, Congress, State governments, industry, and the public. The data collected from this survey will also be used by the DOE as baseline

information for State and regional studies and forecasts of natural gas prices. (EIA is currently conducting a pretest of the EIA-901.)

Standby Forms EIA-857S, "Weekly Report of Natural Gas Supplies and Deliveries to Consumers," and EIA-191S, "Weekly Underground Gas Storage Report"

The standby Forms EIA-857S and EIA-191S are designed to fill gaps in the natural gas data collections where monthly data do not provide sufficient information for responses to natural disasters, severe weather, or other catastrophic events. The data would permit EIA to monitor the impact of regional disruptions on a weekly basis when the EIA Administrator determines that conditions or events warrant more frequent data collection.

Data elements on the forms are identical to those on the "parent" forms EIA-857 and EIA-191 except the weekly forms are simplified to the maximum extent possible. The standby forms are intended only for use as determined necessary in extreme situations. EIA would notify OMB of the intent to use the form(s), the region(s) affected, and the estimated burden.

## II. Current Actions

This notice includes a new data collection, the EIA-901; an extension of current data collections without change, the EIA-191S, and EIA-857S; and extension of current data collections with changes, the EIA-176, EIA-191,

EIA-857, and EIA-895. EIA proposes to discontinue the Form EIA-627. Later this year, a request will be made of the Office of Management and Budget to approve the proposed forms as the Natural Gas Program Package with an expiration date of December 31, 1999.

EIA-901, "Monthly Report of Natural Gas Marketers"

EIA's current data collection system is based on the concept of "bundled" natural gas sales and transportation arrangements. Prior to FERC Order 636, data on bundled natural gas deliveries were readily available from those companies that delivered to end use customers (principally local distribution companies and pipelines). Since the companies making the deliveries had both custody and ownership of the gas, EIA could also collect price data from those companies making deliveries.

With the current system of unbundled sales and transportation, EIA still obtains complete reporting of volumes delivered to end users. Since third parties can now arrange for the sale of natural gas, EIA has lost coverage of the

prices paid by many consumers, particularly in the industrial sector.

In meetings with EIA data providers and data users, the importance of the consumer price data were given high priority. Those prices are important indicators of the overall structure and functioning of the natural gas marketplace. The data are needed and used by the business community for planning purposes and as benchmark and baseline data.

EIA is proposing to collect data from natural gas marketers who are the new participants in the industry since the implementation of Order 636. The data collection would ask marketers to provide monthly reports of volumes, revenues, and distribution costs for natural gas delivered to customers f.o.b. (free on board) the end users' burnertip or f.o.b. the citygate. (EIA is currently pretesting the EIA-901.)

The data would be combined with data collected from both the revised Form EIA-176 and the revised Form EIA-857 to construct end-use prices for each consuming sector.

EIA-176, "Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition"

EIA is proposing to change the EIA-176 to collect the revenues on deliveries of natural gas transported for the account of others in Part V, lines 7.1 through 7.4.6.2 of the form. This information will supplement data proposed to be collected on the Form EIA-901, "Monthly Report of Natural Gas Marketers." The proposed changes are expected to place a small increased burden on respondents.

EIA-191, "Monthly Underground Gas Storage Report"

EIA is not proposing any format changes to the Form. However, EIA has received requests for release of the Form EIA-191 data. Therefore, EIA is asking respondents to reconsider and to demonstrate the extent to which their information constitutes trade secrets or commercial and financial information whose release would cause substantial harm to their company's competitive position.

EIA-627, "Annual Quantity and Value of Natural Gas Report"

EIA is proposing the discontinuation of this voluntary form. A proposed change to the EIA-895 would request monthly data on value of natural gas at the wellhead and eliminate the need for a separate annual data collection on the EIA-627.

EIA-857, "Monthly Report of Natural Gas Purchases and Deliveries to Consumers"

EIA proposes only one change to the EIA-857, to collect revenue data on lines 13 through 18 of the form. The purpose of gathering transportation revenue data is to supplement data gathered on the proposed Form EIA-901 in the development of end-user price data. A small change in burden to respondents is anticipated.

EIA-895, "Monthly Quantity and Value of Natural Gas Report"

Proposed changes to the EIA-895 include adding a column to the form to collect data on the value of each volume item on the form. The title of the Form would be changed to "Monthly Quantity and Value of Natural Gas Report." This voluntary report is filed by State agencies of each of the natural gas producing States. The reporting burden for the EIA-895 would be expected to increase from 30 minutes to 45 minutes per response.

Standby Forms EIA-191S, "Weekly Underground Gas Storage Report," and EIA-857S, "Weekly Report of Natural Gas Purchases and Deliveries to Consumers"

No changes are requested to these standby forms. EIA has not previously invoked the use of the forms in emergency situations, but would like to retain the ability to do so should circumstances warrant.

### III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of responses. Since this notice covers more than one form, please indicate to which form(s) your comments apply.

#### General Issues

EIA is interested in receiving comments from persons regarding:

A. Whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility. Practical utility is the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

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

#### As a Potential Respondent

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

B. Can data be submitted in accordance with the due date specified in the instructions?

C. Public reporting burden for the proposed forms is estimated to average 4 hours per month for the EIA-901, 20.9 hours annually for the EIA-176, 3.6 hours per month for the EIA-191, 4 hours per month for the EIA-857, and 50 minutes per month for the EIA-895 per response. The burden estimate for the EIA-191S is 4 hours per response and the EIA-857S is 4 hours per response on a weekly basis. Burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide the information including: (1) reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

Please comment on (1) the accuracy of our estimate and (2) how the agency could minimize the burden of the collection of information, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

D. What are the estimated (1) total dollar amount annualized for capital and start-up costs, and (2) recurring annual dollar amount of operation and maintenance and purchase of services costs associated with these data collections? The estimates should take into account the costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services made as part of customary and usual business practices, or the cost of any burden hours for completing the forms. EIA estimates that there are no additional costs other than those that the respondent incurs in keeping the information for its own uses.

E. Do you know of any other Federal, State, or local agency that collects similar data? If you do, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

### As a Potential User

A. Can you use data at the levels of detail indicated on the forms?

B. For what purposes would you use the data? Be specific.

C. Are there alternate sources of data and do you use them? If so, what are their deficiencies and/or strengths?

D. For the most part, information is published by EIA in U.S. customary units, e.g., cubic feet of natural gas. Would you prefer to see EIA publish more information in metric units, e.g., cubic meters? If yes, please specify what information (e.g., natural gas consumption), the metric unit(s) of measurement preferred, and in which EIA publication(s) you would like to see such information.

### Specific Issues

EIA is seeking comments on the following specific issues related to the forms covered by this Notice:

#### *Confidentiality of Data on the EIA-191*

EIA has received numerous requests for company-level information filed on the EIA-191. Since these data were collected under a pledge of confidentiality, those requests have been denied. However, in light of the fact that many respondents routinely provide their data to the trade press and others, this issue is being reexamined.

A. Should EIA continue to preserve the confidentiality of EIA-191 data?

B. What would be the impact on your company of the release of its filings of the EIA-191?

C. What would be the impact on your company if the EIA were to aggregate your filings from the field level to the company level and release only the company-level aggregate data?

D. How are field-level or company-level natural gas storage data useful to you?

#### *Tax Revenue Information Reported on the EIA-176 and EIA-857*

Currently taxes are included in the revenues collected on the EIA-176 and EIA-857. Can your company provide separate data, either as a rate or in dollars, on the taxes collected from its deliveries of natural gas to consumers?

#### *Firm and Interruptible Deliveries (EIA-176)*

EIA has been collecting information on EIA-176 on deliveries of natural gas to end users divided into the categories "firm" and "interruptible". Because natural gas purchases and contracting practices have changed significantly since the advent of Order 636, we are requesting your comments on the

desirability of continuing to collect these data at this level of detail.

A. For Responding Companies: Is your company able to provide reliable data in response to these data items?

B. For Data Users: Are the data on firm and interruptible deliveries of natural gas to end users useful to you?

#### *Deliveries of Natural Gas to Nonutility Power Producers (Forms EIA-176 and EIA-857)*

A. For Data Providers: Is your company able to provide reliable data on deliveries to nonutility power producers?

B. For Data Providers and Users: Are the data on deliveries of natural gas to nonutility power producers useful?

#### *Gas Used for Agriculture (Forms EIA-176 and EIA-857)*

Natural gas consumed in agriculture operations has always been classified as part of the commercial sector. For all other fuels on which EIA collects data, agriculture use is considered part of the industrial sector.

A. For Respondent Companies: Is your company able to separate natural gas deliveries to agricultural users and report them as part of the industrial sector?

B. For Data Users: Transferring agricultural use to the industrial sector would allow more meaningful comparisons with other fuels. It would also mean a break in series because EIA has no precise measure of agricultural use with which to adjust previously published data. Should EIA request this change of sector definition?

#### *Electronic or Other Filing Options*

EIA is continually seeking ways to improve the convenience of reporting for respondents. Electronic methods of filing EIA forms provide respondents with options that many find easier and less time-consuming than the traditional paper forms. Also, because some editing is performed as data are entered, filing electronically often produces higher quality reports and respondents are subject to fewer follow-up contacts from EIA staff to resolve questions. Electronic filing is preferred by EIA but is not mandatory. Currently the EIA-176 offers an electronic filing option provided on a personal computer diskette programmed with software that can be used on most IBM compatible computers. The EIA-191 offers an electronic filing option which allows users to transmit data directly to the EIA mainframe computer.

A. Does your company have any questions or concerns about the electronic filing options offered by EIA?

B. What other electronic filing options could be offered that your company would like to use?

#### *Revenue Data on the EIA-176 and EIA-857*

A. Can respondent companies provide the revenue data for gas transported for the account of others requested on the EIA-176 and the EIA-857?

B. What revenues are included in the data that respondents are asked to provide in response to these new data items?

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

Statutory Authority: Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13).

Issued in Washington, D.C., May 13, 1996.

Yvonne M. Bishop,

Director, Office of Statistical Standards,  
Energy Information Administration.

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## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-500-000]

### Northwest Pipeline Corporation; Notice of Application for Authorization To Abandon and Replace Facilities

May 14, 1996.

Take notice that, on May 6, 1996, Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest), 295 Chipeta Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84108, filed an abbreviated application in Docket No. CP96-500-000: (1) for authorization, pursuant to section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act, to abandon and remove approximately 200 feet of existing 22-inch pipeline on Northwest's Ignacio to Sumas mainline at a railroad crossing near Soda Springs, in Caribou County, Idaho; and (2) for authorization, pursuant to section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act and part 157 of the Commission's regulations, to replace that 200-foot segment with new 22-inch replacement pipeline and appurtenances, all as more fully set forth in the application, which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northwest states that the cathodic protection system for the existing 22-inch pipeline segment has been compromised, leading to the potential for future pipeline damage. Northwest asserts that the proposed replacement is required by the present and future public convenience and necessity