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 Leach, R. A. Mr.
 Leboeuf, G. G. Mr.
 Lefande, R. Dr.
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 Lippert, K. W. RADM
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 Lowell, P. Mr.
 Lynch, J. G. Mr.
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 Merritt, M. M. Mr.
 Messerole, M. Mr.
 Miller, A. Dr.
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 Molzahn, W. Mr.
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 Thornett, R. Mr.
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 Throckmorton, E. L. Mr.
 Tisone, A. A. Mr.
 Tompkins, C. L. Mr.
 Townsend, D. Ms.
 Trammell, R. K. Mr.
 Tullar, E. W. Mr.
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 Young, S. D. Ms.
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cora Graves, Director, Executive Personnel and Leadership Development Division, Office of the Assistant Secretary (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), 1000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-1000, telephone (703) 696-5165.

Dated: July 24, 1998.

Sandra K. Melancon,
Paralegal Specialist, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency information collection activities: proposed collection; comment request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE.

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

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning proposed revisions to the Form EIA-846A/C, "Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey."

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 2, 1998. 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 Mr. Robert K. Adler, Energy Consumption Division, EI-63, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585-0660. Mr. Adler's telephone number is (202) 586-1134, FAX number (202) 586-0018. His Internet address is: robert.adler@eia.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Robert K. Adler at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

I. Background

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91), the Energy Information Administration (EIA) 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 EIA, 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 prepare data requests in the desired format, minimize reporting burden, develop clearly understandable reporting forms, and assess the impact of collection requirements on respondents. Also, EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, Title 44, U.S.C. Chapter 35).

The Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS) is a mail survey designed to collect energy consumption and expenditures data from establishments in the manufacturing sector (Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 20 through 39). There are 3 MECS data collection forms, depending on the establishment's SIC. Form EIA-846A collects information for SIC's 20 through 39 except for SIC's 24, 26, 28, 29, 3312, 3321, 3331, and 3339. Form EIA-846B is for establishments operating primarily in the petroleum refining industry (SIC 2911). Form EIA-846C is for establishments in SIC's 24, 26, 28, 29 (excluding 2911), 3312, 3321, 3331, and 3339.

For the 1998 MECS, it is proposed to collect the following data from each MECS establishment: (1) For each energy source consumed—consumption (total, fuel and nonfuel uses) and the expenditures for each energy source, energy storage (as applicable), and energy produced onsite; (2) energy end uses; (3) energy-saving technologies; (4) energy management activities; and (5) square footage and number of buildings in the establishment.

The MECS has been conducted four times previously, covering the years 1985, 1988, 1991, and 1994. In all four survey years, the MECS has collected baseline data on manufacturers' energy consumption and fuel-switching capabilities. In the 1991 and 1994 surveys, the MECS also collected data on end-uses, energy management technologies, building square footage, and energy-saving technologies. The MECS forms the basis for a major publication on energy consumption, *Manufacturing Consumption of Energy, 1994*. Additionally, the MECS data and tables form the basis for an Internet site (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mecs>) in which are found numerous data tables, past publications, and articles. The 1998

MECS will also be used to update the changes in energy intensity data series.

The proposed 1998 MECS uses experience gained from the administration and processing of the four previous surveys and past consultations with respondents, trade association representatives, and data users. EIA is continuing to pursue many avenues to obtain advice and needs for data from customers concerning manufacturing energy data. On the EIA site is a survey of user needs (found at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mecs/webque98.html>). Past MECS customers from trade associations, government, private industry, academia, and other sectors have been contacted through the mail directly to give them an opportunity to express their needs. A few manufacturing establishments have participated in onsite cognitive interviews to test respondents' ability to answer certain proposed sections of the MECS. This notice serves as another opportunity for customers to express their needs for manufacturing energy data.

II. Current Actions

EIA proposes making several changes to the 1998 MECS. Decreases in survey funding have necessitated certain actions to adjust to the reduced level of funding while still maintaining the usefulness of the core program. For that reason, the MECS cycle has changed from once every three years to once every four years. A second consequence of the reduced budget is that the designed sample size of the MECS must be reduced from approximately 23,000 to approximately 17,000 cases (a cut of 26 percent). The cut in sample size means that the finest geographic breakdown of the data available will be at the four Census Regions level, rather than at the nine Census Divisions level that were available from the 1994 survey. Finally, again for budgetary reasons, EIA is proposing to no collect fuel-switching data. Although minor changes have been discernable, data from the previous surveys has shown that the relationship between switchability and consumption has been relatively stable over the years covered by the MECS.

The 1998 MECS will have a substantially altered appearance. It will take advantage of recent forms design research in order to make it easier for respondents to understand and respond to the survey. Prime among the changes is the replacing of the matrix or tabular format with a format that is sequential by energy source. Most of the necessary instructions are built into the questionnaire itself, rather than relying

on separate instruction sheets. The questionnaire will be reformatted to fit a standard page (8.5 by 11 inches). The resulting questionnaire will contain more pages, but should be much easier for the respondent to complete.

EIA, in conjunction with the Bureau of the Census, is exploring ways to have data presented in terms of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. In MECS cycles after 1998, all data will be presented in terms of NAICS.

Other than the removal of fuel-switching, much of the content of the 1994 MECS data collection will remain for the 1998 MECS, with the following exceptions:

1. The 1998 MECS will not contain questions relating to lists or other records of motors present at the establishment. This deletion is in keeping with the agreement EIA had with industry during the 1994 questionnaire design process that this data collection would be a one-time effort.
2. Due to the importance of understanding the ongoing changes in the natural gas industry, the 1998 MECS will have some additional questions relating to the type of purchase made. Specifically, EIA is considering asking about purchases from the local utility and nonutility purchases; the type of rate schedule the purchaser uses; and, for some nonutility purchasers, the breakdown of costs associated with purchasing and transporting the gas from the point-of-purchase to the establishment.
3. The list of energy-saving technologies will be updated. The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has already reviewed the list and provided input to EIA.
4. EIA is exploring ways to adapt the electricity section to fit the new deregulated environment. Because very few manufacturing establishments would be eligible to purchase electricity from other than their local utilities in 1998, the expectation is that any changes in the electricity section would be minor.
5. The questions concerning participation in energy management activities will be changed: electric utility participation will no longer be asked about.

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.

General Issues

A. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can 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 by the due date?

C. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 9 hours per response. Burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide 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 information technology.

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

E. 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 form?

B. For what purpose 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. Are there additional energy-savings technologies not already included on the MECS for which data on their penetration would be useful?

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, DC, July 24, 1998.

Jay H. Casselberry,

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

[FR Doc. 98-20625 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP98-680-000]

Koch Gateway Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

July 28, 1998.

Take notice that on July 21, 1998, Koch Gateway Pipeline Company (Koch), P.O. Box 1478, Houston, Texas 77251-1478, filed in Docket No. CP98-680-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act for authorization to operate as a jurisdictional facility in interstate commerce a 2-inch tap and meter station previously installed, operated and placed in service under Section 311(a) of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) and Section 284.3(c) of the Commission's regulations. Koch make this request, all as more fully set forth in the request for authorization on file with the Commission and open for public inspection, under its blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP92-430-000.¹

Koch states that the proposed certification of facilities will enable Koch to provide transportation services under its blanket transportation certificate through the tap and meter which connects Koch facilities to Integrated Services Inc. (ISI), an intrastate pipeline company, in Shelby County, Texas.

Koch further states it will operate the proposed facilities in compliance with 18 CFR Part 157, Subpart F, and that the proposed activities will not affect Koch's ability to serve its other existing customer.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to

be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-20566 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP98-673-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

July 28, 1998.

Take notice that on July 16, 1998, Northern Natural Gas Company, (Applicant), P.O. Box 3330, Omaha, Nebraska, 68103-0330, filed in Docket No. CP98-673-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.212, and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212, 157.216) for approval to upgrade three existing delivery points located in Wright, Carver, and Stearns Counties, Minnesota, to accommodate natural gas deliveries to Minnegasco, a division of NorAm Energy Corporation, (Minnegasco), under Applicant's blanket certificate issued in Docket Nos. CP82-401-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Applicant proposes to upgrade these delivery points to accommodate natural gas deliveries to Minnegasco under currently effective throughput service agreements. Applicant asserts that Minnegasco has requested the upgrade of the existing delivery points to provide increased natural gas service to the Dayton, Waconia, and Cold Springs town border stations to meet peak day requirements. Applicant further states that the estimated incremental volumes proposed to be delivered to Minnegasco at these delivery points are 5,110 MMBtu on a peak day and 600,114 MMBtu on an annual basis. It is also indicated that the estimated cost to upgrade the delivery points is \$228,000.

Any person or the Commission's Staff may, within 45 days of the issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and

¹ See, 20 FERC ¶ 62,416 (1982).