

• Linking the ACTS Toolkit with components in the other DOE 2000 thrust: National Collaboratories (see the Internet web page at URL: <http://www.mcs.anl.gov/DOE2000/>).

Applications may be for up to three years in duration, with second and third year funding subject to progress demonstrated in annual reviews. Based on anticipated available funding and sufficient applications of high merit, approximately 4–6 applications averaging \$250K/year could be supported.

Applications will be subjected to formal merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following criteria listed in descending order of importance as codified for review of applications from the academic and industrial sectors in 10 CFR part 605:

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project.

2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach.

3. Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources.

4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

Within the Scientific and/or Technical Merit criterion above, the following subcriteria will be used for evaluation purposes (relative to the current SciTL), and will be evaluated equally:

i. Increased functionality.

ii. Enhanced performance.

iii. Improved usability.

iv. Widened scope of applicability.

Within the Appropriateness of Method criterion above, applicants are encouraged to identify opportunities for collaboration with ongoing DOE 2000 projects and other applications important to DOE missions.

External peer reviewers will be selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers will be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s).

Information about the development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, selection processes, and other policies and procedures may be found in the Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance

Program and 10 CFR Part 605. The Application Guide is available from the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, OCTR/MICS, ER-31, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290. Telephone requests may be made by calling (301) 903-5800. Electronic access to ER's Application Guide is possible via the Internet at the following URL: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 15, 1997.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director for Resource Management, Office of Energy Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments (FERC Form No. 542)

April 23, 1997.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before June 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael P. Miller, Information Services Division, ED-12.4, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael P. Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at

(202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at mmiller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form No. 542 "Gas Pipeline Rates: Rate Tracking (Non-Formal)" (OMB No. 1902-0070) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Title IV of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA), 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432, and Sections 4, 5, and 16, of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w). As a result of the issuance and implementation of Order No. 636, the sales function performed by the interstate pipelines has mostly disappeared. Customers have overwhelmingly chosen to do their own procurement of gas supplies coupled with the use of transportation service on the pipelines rather than buying gas from pipelines. For pipelines to recover a variety of transportation costs they have developed filings to track these expenditures and include such charges as: Costs of obtaining the use of upstream pipeline capacity to fulfill pipeline service obligations; electric power cost filings; gas supply realignment transition cost flowthrough; fuel usage; and Gas Research Institute research fees. Tracking filings are submitted at any time to track upstream cost changes or are filed on a regularly schedule basis as specified in the companies' tariffs establishing the tracking mechanism. Filings can be either: accepted; suspended but not set for hearing; suspended for further review or a technical conference and additional Commission action as deemed necessary; or suspended and set for hearing. Before the Commission allows the rate change to become effective, staff analysis is performed to ensure that the rate change is just and reasonable. The data submitted in the rate tracking filing are used by the Commission to verify the costs proposed to be recovered under those filings. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR 154.4; 154.7; 154.101; 154.107; 154.201; 154.207-154.209 and 154.401-154.403.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
60	5	120	36,000.

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 36,000 hours divided by 2,087 hours per year times \$104,350 per year equals \$1,800,000. The cost per respondent is equal to \$30,000.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, 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.

The estimate of cost for respondents is based upon salaries for professional and clerical support, as well as direct and indirect overhead costs. Direct costs include all costs directly attributable to providing this information, such as administrative costs and the cost for information technology. Indirect or overhead costs are costs incurred by an organization in support of its mission. These costs apply to activities which benefit the whole organization rather than any one particular function or activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology,

e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments (FERC Form No. 543)

April 23, 1997.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before June 27, 1997.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael P. Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at mmiller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form No. 543 "Gas Pipeline Rates: Rate Tracking (Formal)" (OMB No. 1902-0152) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Title IV of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA), 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432, and Sections 4, 5,

and 16, of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w). As a result of the issuance and implementation of Order No. 636, the sales function performed by the interstate pipelines has mostly disappeared. Customers have overwhelmingly chosen to do their own procurement of gas supplies coupled with the use of transportation service on the pipelines rather than buying gas from pipelines. For pipelines to recover a variety of transportation costs they have developed filings to track these expenditures and include such charges as: Costs of obtaining the use of upstream pipeline capacity to fulfill pipeline service obligations; electric power cost filings; gas supply realignment transition cost flowthrough; fuel usage; and Gas Research Institute research fees. Tracking filings are submitted at any time to track upstream cost changes or are filed on a regularly scheduled basis as specified in the companies' tariffs establishing the tracking mechanism. Filings can be either: Accepted; suspended but not set for hearing; suspended for further review or a technical conference and additional Commission action as deemed necessary; or suspended and set for hearing. When a filing is suspended and set for hearing, it is considered a formal filing and the portion of the rate filing associated with the disputed issues becomes the subject of an investigation. Before the Commission allows the rate change to become effective, staff analysis is performed to ensure that the rate change is just and reasonable. The data submitted in the rate tracking filing are used by the Commission to verify the costs proposed to be recovered under those filings. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR 154.4; 154.7; 154.101; 154.107; 154.201; 154.207-154.209 and 154.312; 154.314; 154.401-154.403; 154.601-154.603.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
2	1	1,030	2,060

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 2,060 hours divided by 2,087 hours per year times \$104,350 per year equals

\$103,000. The cost per respondent is equal to \$51,500.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain,