

interstate pipelines on behalf of other interstate pipelines, as well as transportation by interstate pipelines on behalf of non-interstate pipeline shippers. Therefore, the Commission is also proposing to modify the title of section 284.223 to read "Transportation by interstate pipelines on behalf of shippers."

The Commission proposes to modify paragraph (b) of section 284.221, setting forth the general rules regarding the transportation by interstate pipelines on behalf of others under section 7(c) blanket certificates, to delete reference to an October 31, 1989 date no longer relevant, and a fee no longer collected.

In section 284.102(e), governing the certifications interstate pipelines must obtain from shippers to be able to transport gas on behalf of an intrastate pipeline or local distribution company under section 311, the Commission proposes to delete reference to a January 3, 1992 deadline for tariff revisions establishing the certification requirement.

Finally, the Commission proposes to make a grammatical revision in section 284.8(b)(4)(iii).

VII. Environmental Analysis

The Commission is required to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for any action that may have a significant adverse effect on the human environment.⁴⁹ The Commission has categorically excluded certain actions from these requirements as not having a significant effect on the human environment.⁵⁰ The action proposed here is procedural in nature and therefore falls within the categorical exclusions provided in the Commission's regulations.⁵¹ Therefore, neither an environmental impact statement, nor an environmental assessment is necessary, and will not be prepared in this proposed rulemaking.

VIII. Reporting Flexibility Certification

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)⁵² generally requires the Commission to describe the impact that a proposed rule would have on small entities or to certify that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. An analysis is not required if a proposed rule will not have such an

impact.⁵³ Most gas companies to whom the proposed rule will apply do not fall within the definition of a "small entity."⁵⁴ Consequently, pursuant to section 605(b) of the RFA, the Commission certifies that the proposed rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.

IX. Information Collection Statement

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulations⁵⁵ require that OMB approve certain information and recordkeeping requirements imposed by an agency. The information collection requirements in this proposed rule are contained in the following: FERC Form No. 2 "Annual Report of Major Natural Gas Companies" (1902-0028); FERC Form No. 2-A "Annual Report of Nonmajor Natural Gas Companies" (1902-0030); FERC Form No. 11 "Natural Gas Pipeline Company Monthly Statement" (1902-0032); FERC Form No. 549 "Gas Pipeline Rates: Natural Gas Policy Act Title III Transactions" (1902-0086); FERC Form No. 549B "Gas Pipeline Rates: Capacity Release Information" (1902-0169); FERC Form No. 576 "Reports on Pipeline Systems Service Interruptions" (1902-0004); FERC Form No. 8 "Underground Gas Storage Report" (1902-0026); and FPC-14 (redesignated herein FERC Form No. 14) "Annual Report for Importers and Exporters of Natural Gas" (1902-0027).

The Commission in this proposed rule intends to modernize its regulations to reflect the current regulatory environment that it instituted with Order No. 636 and the restructuring of the natural gas industry. Specifically, the Commission intends to revise the Uniform System of Accounts to provide financial information that will be of greater benefit than what is available now, and to create forms and reports that reflect open-access transportation of natural gas and unbundled pipeline sales for resale at market-based prices. The Commission's Office of Chief Accountant uses the data in its audit program and continuous review of the financial condition of regulated companies. The Office of Pipeline Regulation uses the data in its various rate proceedings and supply programs,

and the Office of Economic Policy and Office of General Counsel use the data in their programs relating to the administration of the Natural Gas Act.

The Commission is submitting to the Office of Management and Budget a notification of these proposed collections of information. Interested persons may obtain information on these reporting requirements by contacting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 941 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426 [Attention: Michael Miller, Information Services Division, (202) 208-1415]. Comments on the requirements of this rule can be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Washington, D.C. 20503, (Attention: Desk Officer for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission).

X. Comment Procedures

The Commission invites all interested persons to submit written comments on the proposals of this NOPR. To the extent possible, the comments should be keyed to the topic headings of this NOPR. An original and 14 copies of the written comments must be filed with the Commission by April 13, 1995. Comments must refer to Docket No. RM95-4-000 and be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

All written submissions will be placed in the Commission's public file and will be available for public inspection, during regular business hours, at the Commission's Public Reference Room, Room 3408, 941 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

List of Subjects

18 CFR Part 158

Administrative practice and procedure, Natural gas, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Uniform System of Accounts.

18 CFR Part 201

Natural gas, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Uniform System of Accounts.

18 CFR Part 250

Natural gas, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

18 CFR Part 260

Natural gas, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

⁴⁹ 5 U.S.C. 605(b).

⁵⁴ Section 601(c) of the RFA defines a "small entity" as a small business, a small not-for-profit enterprise, or a small governmental jurisdiction. A "small business" is defined by reference to section 3 of the Small Business Act as an enterprise which is "independently owned and operated and which is not dominant in its field of operation." 15 U.S.C. 632(a).

⁵⁵ 5 CFR 1320.13.

⁴⁹ Order No. 486, Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, 52 FR 47897 (Dec. 17, 1987), FERC Statutes and Regulations, Regulations Preambles 1986-1990 ¶ 30,783 (1987).

⁵⁰ 18 CFR 380.4.

⁵¹ See 18 CFR 380.4(a)(2)(ii).

⁵² 5 U.S.C. 601-612.