where it will occur and what aircraft types are involved.

Issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(h)(2) in Washington, D.C. on January 12, 1995. Patrick V. Murphy, *Acting Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.* [FR Doc. 95–1331 Filed 1–18–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

18 CFR Part 284

[Docket No. RM95-5-000]

Release of Firm Capacity on Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines

January 12, 1995. AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its capacity release regulations to permit firm shippers of natural gas to negotiate prearranged releases of capacity for a full calendar month without compliance with the Commission's advance posting and bidding requirements. The amendment would make it easier to negotiate shortterm capacity release transactions and would ease the reporting burden on industry.

DATES: Comments are due February 21, 1995.

ADDRESSES: An original and 14 copies of comments must be filed and refer to Docket No. RM95–5–000. Comments should be addressed to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Michael Goldenberg, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208–2294
- Joseph Vasapoli, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208–0620.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the Federal Register, the Commission also provides all interested persons an opportunity to inspect or copy the contents of this document during normal business hours in Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street NE., Washington DC 20426.

The Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS), an electronic bulletin board service, provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission. CIPS is available at no charge to the user and may be accessed using a personal computer with a modem by dialing (202) 208-1397. To access CIPS, set your communications software to 19200, 14400, 12000, 9600, 7200, 4800, 2400, 1200 or 300bps, full duplex, no parity, 8 data bits, and 1 stop bit. The full text of this document will be available on CIPS for 60 days from the date of issuance in ASCII and WordPerfect 5.1 format. After 60 days the document will be archived, but still accessible. The complete text on diskette in WordPerfect format may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, La Dorn Systems Corporation, also located in Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street NE., Washington DC 20426.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

January 12, 1995.

In Order No. 636,¹ the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) established a mechanism under which firm holders of capacity could release unneeded capacity they held on interstate pipelines to other shippers needing that capacity. The Commission is proposing to amend one provision of its capacity release regulations, § 284.243(h), to extend to one month the time period for which shippers can release firm capacity without having to comply with the Commission's advance posting and bidding requirements. The current regulations restrict this ability to less than one calendar month.

I. Reporting Requirements

The proposed rule affects the information required to be maintained on pipeline electronic bulletin boards (EBBs). The public reporting burden for EBBs is contained in the information requirement FERC–549(B), "Gas Pipeline Rates: Capacity Release Information." If adopted, the proposed rule would eliminate the need for the industry to continue the current practice of using two capacity release postings (a less-than-one month release coupled with a one-day release) to complete a full month release transaction. Under the proposed rule, full month releases could be accomplished with only one such posting. The Commission estimates that approximately 1,500 paired release transactions occur per year. At an average burden of one hour per posting, the annual reduction in burden as a result of this rule is approximately 1,500 hours.

A copy of this proposed rule is being provided to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Interested persons may send comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for further reductions of this burden, to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 941 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426 [Attention: Michael Miller, Information Services Division, (202) 208-1415, FAX (202) 208-2425]. Comments on the requirements of this proposed rule may also be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Washington, D.C. 20503 [Attention: Desk Officer for Federal **Energy Regulatory Commission (202)** 395-6880, FAX (202) 395-5167].

II. Background

Under the regulations promulgated in Order No. 636, holders of firm capacity on pipelines could reassign that capacity in two ways. The releasing shipper could choose to have the pipeline post the notice of release on the pipeline's Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB) so other shippers could submit bids for that capacity, with the capacity awarded to the highest bidder. Or, the releasing shipper could enter into a prearranged deal with another shipper (replacement shipper) for the release of capacity. For a pre-arranged release at less than the maximum rate, the pipeline had to post the release on its EBB to permit other shippers to bid for that capacity. If a shipper bid more than the pre-arranged release rate, the designated replacement shipper was given the opportunity to match that bid to retain the capacity.

In Order No. 636–A, several petitioners requested an exemption from the bidding process for short-term prearranged release transactions, contending that the requirements for advance posting and bidding are too administratively difficult for such transactions and could inhibit the efficient allocation of capacity.² In response, the Commission promulgated § 224.243(h), permitting firm shippers to

¹ Pipeline Service Obligations and Revisions to Regulations Governing Self-Implementing Transportation; and Regulation of Natural Gas Pipelines After Partial Wellhead Decontrol, 57 FR 13267 (Apr. 16, 1992), III FERC Stats. & Regs. Preambles ¶ 30,939 (Apr. 8, 1992), order on reh'g, Order No. 636–A, 57 FR 36128 (Aug. 12, 1992), III FERC Stats. & Regs. Preambles ¶ 30,950 (Aug. 3, 1992), order on reh'g, Order No. 636–B, 57 FR 57911 (Dec. 8, 1992), 61 FERC ¶ 61,272 (1992), appeal re-docketed sub nom., Atlanta Gas Light Company and Chattanooga Gas Company, et al. v. FERC, No. 94–1171 (D.C. Cir. May 27, 1994).

² Order No. 636–A, III FERC Stats. & Regs. Preambles at 30,553.