



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC20-10-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC Form Nos. 2 and 2-A;
Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC Form No. 2 (Annual Report for Major Natural Gas Companies) **and** FERC Form No. 2-A (Annual Report for Non-Major Natural Gas Companies).¹

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due **[INSERT DATE 60**

DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC20-10-000) by either of the following methods:

- eFiling at Commission's Web Site: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>

¹ FERC Form Nos. 2 and 2-A are part of the "Forms Refresh" effort, which is a separate activity and not addressed here. *See Revisions to the Filing Process for Commission Forms*, 166 FERC ¶ 61,027 (2019) (started in Docket No. AD15-11-000 and ongoing in Docket No. RM19-12-000). OMB issued its decisions on the proposed changes in the Forms Refresh Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in Docket RM19-12-000 on March 14, 2019.

- Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, at Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. For user assistance, contact FERC Online Support by e-mail at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free).

Docket: Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Brown may be reached by e-mail at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC Form No. 2, Annual Report for Major Natural Gas Companies; OMB Control No. 1902-0028

FERC Form No. 2-A, Annual Report for Non-Major Natural Gas Companies; OMB Control No. 1902-0030

OMB Control No.: 1902-0028, 1902-0030

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC Form No. 2 and FERC Form No. 2-A information collection requirements without a change to the current reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Abstract: Pursuant to sections 8, 10 and 14 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), (15 U.S.C. 717g-717m), the Commission is authorized to conduct investigations and collect and record data, and to prescribe rules and regulations concerning accounts, records and memoranda as necessary or appropriate for purposes of administering the NGA. The Commission may prescribe a system of accounts for jurisdictional companies and, after notice and opportunity for hearing, may determine the accounts in which particular outlays and receipts will be entered, charged or credited.

The Commission collects FERC Form Nos. 2 and 2-A information as prescribed in 18 CFR 260.1 and 18 CFR 260.2. These forms provide information concerning a company's current performance, compiled using the Commission's Uniform System of Account (USoA).² FERC Form No. 2 is filed by "Major" natural gas companies that have combined natural gas transported or stored for a fee that exceeds 50 million Dekatherms in each of the three previous calendar years. FERC Form No. 2-A is filed by "Non-Major" natural gas companies that do not meet the filing threshold for the FERC Form No. 2, but have total gas sales or volume transactions that exceeds 200,000 Dekatherms in each of the three previous calendar years.

The forms provide information concerning a company's financial and operational information. The forms contain schedules which include a basic set of financial statements: Comparative Balance Sheet, Statement of Income and Retained Earnings, Statement of Cash Flows, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Hedging

² See 18 CFR Part 201 (Uniform System of Accounts Prescribed for Natural Gas Companies Subject to the Provisions of the Natural Gas Act).

Activities. Supporting schedules containing supplementary information are filed, including revenues and the related quantities of products sold or transported; account balances for various operating and maintenance expenses; selected plant cost data; and other information.

The information collected assists the Commission in the administration of its jurisdictional responsibilities and is used by Commission staff, state regulatory agencies, customers, financial analysts and others in the review of the financial condition of regulated companies. The information is also used in various rate proceedings, industry analyses and in the Commission's audit programs and as appropriate, for the computation of annual charges. The information is made available to the public, interveners and all interested parties to assist in the proceedings before the Commission. For financial information to be useful to the Commission, it must be understandable, relevant, reliable and timely. The Form Nos. 2 and 2-A financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Commission's USofA and related regulations, and provide data that enables the Commission to develop and monitor cost-based rates, analyze costs of different services and classes of assets, and compare costs across lines of business. The use of the USofA permits natural gas companies to account for similar transactions and events in a consistent manner, and to communicate those results to the Commission on a periodic basis. Comparability of data and financial statement analysis for a particular entity from one period to the next, or between entities, within the same industry, would be difficult to achieve if each company maintained its own accounting records using dissimilar accounting methods and classifications to record similar transactions and events.

In summary, without the information collected in the forms, it would be difficult for the Commission to ensure, as required by the NGA, that a pipeline's rates remain just and reasonable, respond to Congressional and outside inquires, and make decisions in a timely manner.

Type of Respondent: Major and Non-Major Natural Gas Companies.

*Estimate of Annual Burden*³: The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden and cost⁴ for the information collection as shown in the following table:

Information Collection (FERC Form No.)	Number of Respondents (1)	Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)	Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden & Cost Per Response (4)	Total Annual Burden Hours & Cost ⁵ (3)*(4)=(5)	Annual Cost per Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)
2	100	1	100	1,671.66 hrs.; \$133,733	167,166 hrs.; \$13,373,280	\$133,733
2-A	81	1	81	296 hrs.; \$23,680	23,976 hrs.; \$1,918,080	\$23,680

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) whether the 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

³ Burden is defined as the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For further explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, refer to 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

⁴ The Commission staff believes the FERC FTE (full-time equivalent) average cost for wages plus benefits is representative of the corresponding cost for the industry respondents.. Based upon the FERC's 2019 average cost for salary plus benefits, the average hourly cost is \$80/hour.

⁵ Every figure in this column is rounded to the nearest dollar.

estimate of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: April 24, 2020

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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