

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. IC22-11-000]

COMMISSION INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES (FERC-538)
COMMENT REQUEST; EXTENSION

(April 5, 2022)

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, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection FERC-538 (Gas Pipeline Certificates: Section 7(a) Mandatory Initial Service).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due [**INSERT DATE 60 days after date of publication in the Federal Register**].

ADDRESSES: You may submit your comments (identified by Docket No. IC22-11-000) by one of the following methods:

Electronic filing through <http://www.ferc.gov>, is preferred.

- Electronic Filing: Documents must be filed in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format.
- For those unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery:

- o Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only: Addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.
- o Hand (including courier) delivery: Addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov>. 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>.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Gas Pipeline Certificates: Section 7(a) Mandatory Initial Service

OMB Control No.: 1902-0061

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-538 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The purpose of FERC-537 is to implement the information collections pursuant to sections 7(a), 10(a) and 16 of Natural Gas Act (NGA)¹, and part 156 of the

¹ 15 USC 717f-w

Commission Regulations². These statutes and regulations upon application by a person or municipality authorized to engage in the local distribution of natural gas, allow for the Commission to order a natural gas company to extend or improve its transportation facilities and sell natural gas to the municipality or person and, for such purpose, to extend its transportation facilities to communities immediately adjacent to such facilities or to territories served by the natural gas pipeline company. The Commission uses the application data in order to be fully informed concerning the applicant, and the service the applicant is requesting.

Type of Respondents: Persons or municipalities authorized to engage in the local distribution of natural gas.

*Estimate of Annual Burden*³: The Commission estimates the annual reporting burden and cost for the information collection as:

FERC-538: Gas Pipeline Certificates: Section 7(a) Mandatory Initial Service						
	Number of Respondents (1)	Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)	Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden Hrs. & Cost (\$) Per Response⁴ (4)	Total Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (\$) (3)*(4)=(5)	Cost per Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)

² 18 CFR 156

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, reference 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

⁴ The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response * \$87.00/hour = Average cost/response. The figure is the 2021 FERC average hourly cost (for wages and benefits) of \$87.00 (and an average annual cost of \$180,703/year). Commission staff is using the FERC average salary plus benefits because we consider people completing the FERC-538 to be compensated at rates similar to FERC employees.

Gas Pipeline Certificates	1	1	1	240 hrs.; \$20,880	240 hrs.; \$20,880	\$20,880
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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 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.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.