

particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. *The Cornell Project consists of:* (1) An existing 28-foot-high, 260-foot-long reinforced-concrete gravity overflow-type dam, known as Beebe Lake Dam, with a crest elevation of 780.7 feet mean sea level (msl); (2) an impoundment (Beebe Lake) with a surface area of 16 acres and a storage capacity of 50 acre-feet at the normal pool elevation of 780.7 feet msl; (3) a concrete forebay wall and reinforced-concrete intake with a 6-foot-high, 6-foot-wide steel vertical-slide gate along the right (north) bank; (4) a 5-foot-diameter, 1,507-foot-long reinforced-concrete underground pipeline and a 5-foot-diameter, 200-foot-long riveted-steel underground penstock; (5) a 79-foot-long, 29-foot-wide, 24-foot-high powerhouse containing two Ossberger turbines and induction generators with a combined authorized capacity of 1,718 kilowatts; (6) a tailrace located on the river right-side of Fall Creek directly below the powerhouse; (7) a 385-foot-long, 2.4-kilovolt transmission line connecting to Cornell's distribution system; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

The Cornell Project is operated in a run-of-river mode and bypasses an 1,800-foot-long reach of Fall Creek that extends from the toe of the dam to the powerhouse tailrace. From 2013 through 2018, the average annual generation was 4,599 megawatt-hours.

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

n. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. *Scoping Process:* The Commission intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the Cornell Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

Commission staff does not propose to conduct any on-site scoping meetings at this time. Instead, we are soliciting comments, recommendations, and information, on the Scoping Document 1 (SD1) issued December 13, 2019.

Copies of SD1 outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the EA were distributed to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of SD1 may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Dated: December 13, 2019.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2019-27417 Filed 12-18-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC19-31-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-547); Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

**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 comments on the currently approved information collection, FERC-547 (Gas Pipeline Rates: Refund Report Requirements) and submitting the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by January 21, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments filed with OMB, identified by the OMB Control No. 1902-0084, should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs: [oira\\_submission@omb.gov](mailto:oira_submission@omb.gov). Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer.

A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Commission, in Docket

No. IC19-31-000, by either of the following methods:

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

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

*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 email at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov), or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

*Docket:* Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or 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 email at [DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), by telephone at (202) 502-8663, and by fax at (202) 273-0873.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* FERC-547, Gas Pipeline Rates: Refund Report Requirements.

*OMB Control No.:* 1902-0084.

*Type of Request:* Three-year extension of the FERC-547 information collection requirements with no changes to the reporting requirements.

*Abstract:* The Commission uses FERC-547 (Gas Pipeline Rates: Refund Report Requirements) to implement the statutory refund provisions governed by sections 4, 5 and 16 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA).<sup>1</sup> Sections 4 and 5 authorize the Commission to order a refund (with interest) for any portion of a natural gas company's increased rate or charge found to be unjust or unreasonable. Refunds may also be instituted by a natural gas company as a stipulation to a Commission-approved settlement agreement or a provision under the company's tariff. Section 16 of the NGA authorizes the Commission to prescribe rules and regulations necessary to administer its refund mandates. The Commission's refund reporting requirements are in 18 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 154.501 and 154.502.

The Commission uses the data to monitor refunds owed by natural gas companies to ensure that the flow-through of refunds owed by these companies are made as expeditiously as possible and to assure that refunds are made in compliance with the Commission's regulations.

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 717-717w.

On July 30, 2019 (84 FR 41708), the Commission published a Notice in the **Federal Register** in Docket No. IC19–31–000 requesting public comments.

The Commission received no comments and is noting that in the related submittal to OMB.

*Type of Respondents:* Jurisdictional natural gas companies.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>2</sup> The Commission estimates the annual public reporting<sup>3</sup> burden and cost<sup>4</sup> for the information collection as:

**FERC–547—GAS PIPELINE RATES: REFUND REPORT REQUIREMENTS**

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1) * (2) = (3)	Average burden hrs. & cost (\$) per response (4)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (\$) (3) * (4) = (5)	Cost per respondent (\$) (5) ÷ (1)
Natural Gas Pipelines .....	19	2	38	2 hrs.; \$160	76 hrs.; \$6,080	\$160

*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.

Dated: December 12, 2019.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019–27322 Filed 12–18–19; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP19–500–000]

**Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Palmyra to South Sioux City A-Line Abandonment Project**

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Palmyra to South Sioux City A-Line Abandonment Project, proposed by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) in the above-referenced

docket. Northern requests authorization to abandon a segment of its A-Line Pipeline and construct, own, and operate two new natural gas pipeline loops.<sup>1</sup>

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Palmyra to South Sioux City A-Line Abandonment Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The proposed Palmyra to South Sioux City A-Line Abandonment Project is in Nebraska and includes the following facilities:

- Abandonment in place of 44.2 miles of 20-inch-diameter and 14.8 miles of 16-inch-diameter mainline in Otoe, Lancaster, Saunders, and Dodge Counties (M581A);
- abandonment in place of 58.7 miles of 16-inch-diameter mainline in Dodge, Burt, Thurston, and Dakota Counties (M570A);
- construction of 1.7 miles of new 24-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Otoe County (Palmyra North D-Line Loop);
- construction of 2.5 miles of new 24-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Dodge County (Fremont North D-Line Loop);
- construction of a new pig<sup>2</sup> launcher and two valve sites within the existing Palmyra Compressor Station at the beginning of the Palmyra D-Line Loop and a pig receiver and one valve site at the end of the pipeline loop; and
- construction of a new pig launcher and one valve site within the existing

Fremont Compressor Station and one valve site at the end of the Fremont North D-Line Loop.

The Commission mailed a copy of the *Notice of Availability* to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; and newspapers and libraries in the project area. The EA is only available in electronic format. It may be viewed and downloaded from the FERC’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)), on the Environmental Documents page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis.asp>). In addition, the EA may be accessed by using the eLibrary link on the FERC’s website. Click on the eLibrary link (<https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>), click on General Search, and enter the docket number in the “Docket Number” field, excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP19–500). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208–3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502–8659.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Your comments should focus on the EA’s disclosure and discussion of potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that the Commission has the opportunity to consider your comments prior to making its decision on this project, it is

<sup>2</sup> “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.

<sup>3</sup> The change in number of respondents is an update due to normal industry fluctuations. The

changes to the estimated numbers for frequency of filing and burden per filing are due to improved estimates.

<sup>4</sup> The Commission staff estimates that industry is similarly situated in terms of hourly cost (for wages plus benefits). Based on the Commission’s FY (Fiscal Year) 2019 average cost (for wages plus benefits), \$80.00/hour is used.

<sup>1</sup> A loop is a pipeline that is constructed adjacent to another pipeline for the purpose of increasing capacity in this portion of the system.

<sup>2</sup> A “pig” is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushes through the pipeline for cleaning the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes.