

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
GAS SERVICES DIVISION**

**GAS UTILITIES
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

No. 695



**RAILROAD COMMISSION
OF TEXAS**

**Michael L. Williams, Chairman
Charles R. Matthews, Commissioner
Tony Garza, Commissioner**

**Steve Pitner
Director
Gas Services Division**

March 11, 2002

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Proposed Final Order issued in GUD No. 9254 – Complaint by Chuck Gabbert Against Reliant Energy Entex.

**SECTION 1
NEW APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS FILED**

DOCKET NO. -- 9282
CAPTION -- General inquiry into rates filed by Southern Union Gas Company revising the Cost of Gas Clause in the Eagle Pass Service Area.
DATE FILED -- February 15, 2002
FILED BY -- Judson Larson
EXAMINER -- Zuleida Cruz

DOCKET NO. -- 9283
CAPTION -- Application of Southern Union Gas Company for review of relocation cost recovery clause to be included in their rates.
DATE FILED -- March 5, 2002
FILED BY -- Bobbie Barker
EXAMINER -- Mark Evarts

**SECTION 2
APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS SET FOR HEARING OR PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

None at this time.

**SECTION 3
STATUS OF PENDING CASES**

None at this time.

**SECTION 4
NOTICES OF DISMISSAL**

None at this time.

**SECTION 5
ORDERS OF THE COMMISSION**

COMPLAINT BY CHUCK GABBERT

,

GAS UTILITIES DOCKET NO. 9254

,

AGAINST RELIANT ENERGY ENTEX

,

PROPOSED FINAL ORDER

Notice of Open Meeting to consider this Order was duly posted with the Secretary of State within the time period provided by law pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. Chapter 551, *et seq.* (Vernon 1994 & Supp. 2002).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Reliant Energy Entex (Reliant) owns and operates a natural gas distribution system in the environs of the City of Rusk, Texas.
2. Mr. Chuck Gabbert contracted with Reliant for gas utility service to his residence located in the environs of Rusk, Texas.
3. On June 11, 2001, Reliant disconnected Mr. Gabbert's gas service for non-payment with a balance owed of \$1,365.69 for service received from September 2000 through June 11, 2001.
4. Mr. Gabbert agreed to pay the outstanding balance owed on his account through a deferred payment plan he entered into on June 11, 2001. After entering the deferred payment plan, Reliant restored his gas service on June 13, 2001.
5. Mr. Gabbert did not comply with the terms of the deferred payment plan and still owes \$976.67.
6. Reliant mailed a Notice of Service Disconnection to Mr. Gabbert on August 30, 2001, which included the date of termination of service, the hours, address, and telephone number where payment could be made, and a statement that it was a "Disconnect Notice," and a statement that if an emergency existed, the utility could be contacted concerning the nature of the emergency.
7. Reliant disconnected Mr. Gabbert's gas service for non-payment on September 11, 2001.
8. Mr. Gabbert filed a complaint against Reliant with the Railroad Commission of Texas (Commission) on October 18, 2001.
9. On October 24, 2001, the Commission referred this matter to the State Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct a hearing.
10. On November 20, 2001, the Administrative Law Judge sent an Order Memorializing the Prehearing Conferences and Notice of Hearing to Mr. Gabbert.
11. The hearing convened in Austin, Texas, on December 11, 2001. Mr. Gabbert answered the telephone to participate in the hearing and then expressed his intent to disconnect and not participate in the hearing, at which time he disconnected the call.
12. The ALJ attempted repeatedly to reconnect the call, but Mr. Gabbert did not answer the phone.
13. After Mr. Gabbert's failure to answer the phone, the hearing proceeded on a default basis.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Railroad Commission of Texas has jurisdiction and authority over this subject matter pursuant to TEX. UTIL. CODE ANN. §102.001 (Vernon Supp. 2002).

2. The State Office of Administrative Hearings has jurisdiction over all matters related to the conduct of a hearing in this matter, including preparation of a Proposal For Decision with findings of fact and conclusions of law. TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. §§ 2003.049 (Vernon 2000), 2003.0491 (Vernon Supp. 2002), and TEX. UTIL. CODE ANN. §102.006 (Vernon Supp. 2002).
3. Reliant is a "Gas Utility" as defined in TEX. UTIL. CODE ANN. §101.003(7) (Vernon Supp. 2002).
4. Based on the findings of fact, Mr. Gabbert's intentional disconnection of the phone during the hearing constitutes his failure to appear and is grounds for default, pursuant to 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§1.130(1)(1) and (4) (West 2001).
5. Based on the findings of fact, Reliant complied with 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 7.45(4)(C) (West 2001) by providing Mr. Gabbert with proper notice of disconnection.
6. Based on the findings of fact, Reliant complied with 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 7.45(4)(D) (West 2001) by lawfully disconnecting Mr. Gabbert's gas utility service for non-payment on September 11, 2001.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS that Mr. Chuck Gabbert's complaint against Reliant Energy Entex is hereby **DENIED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all other motions, proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and any other requests for general or specific relief, if not specifically adopted herein, are hereby **DENIED**.

SIGNED this 5th day of March, 2002.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

/s/ _____
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL L. WILLIAMS

/s/ _____
COMMISSIONER CHARLES R. MATTHEWS

/s/ _____
COMMISSIONER TONY GARZA

ATTEST:

/s/ **Kim Williamson** _____
SECRETARY

SECTION 6
MISCELLANEOUS

STEVE PITNER, GAS SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR

1. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

A. Publications

1. Texas Utilities Code Titles 3 and 4. Special Rules of Practice and Procedure and Substantive Rules - \$15.00
2. a. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001 – Now available via the Commission’s website at:
<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/tablecontents01.html>
 - a. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000 - \$17.00 (includes statistical data for 1999)
 - b. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1999 - \$9.00 (includes statistical data for 1998)
 - c. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1998 - \$7.00 (includes statistical data for 1997)
3. January 2000 Pipeline Safety Rules - \$24.00, includes: 49 CFR 191 & 192 and 16 TAC Sections 7.70-7.74 (gas) 49 CFR 193 (LNG); 49 CFR 195 and 16 TAC Sections 7.80-7.87 (hazardous liquids); 49 CFR 40 and 199 (drug testing).
4. Distribution and/or Gas Transmission Review forms for Adequacy of Operation, Maintenance and Emergency Manual - To obtain a copy of review forms at no charge, send a request with a self addressed envelope (10" x 13" preferably) with \$0.98 postage.
5. Six MCF Monthly Residential Gas Bill Analysis for Twenty-five Texas Cities - \$2.00

Anyone who wishes to obtain a copy of any of the publications or maps listed in Section A should contact the Gas Services Division, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, (512) 463-7167.

B. Interest Rate on Customer Deposits

We have been advised by the Public Utility Commission that the interest rate to be applied to customer deposits in calendar year 2002 is 6.00%. All gas utilities should use this rate.

2. PIPELINE SAFETY SECTION

- A. Austin Headquarters - William B. Travis Building
1701 North Congress, (78701)
PO Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967 Telephone (512) 463-7058

Mary L. McDaniel, P.E., Assistant Director
William (Bill) Dase, Jr., P.E., Engineer
Terry Pardo, P.E., Engineer
K. David Born, Field Operations Manager
William (Bill) Meyer, Compliance Manager
Lee Thying, P.E., Engineer
Kendall Smith, Program Administrator
Maurice Curd, Program Administrator

Amarillo Region 1 - 7102 IH-40 West, Bldg. C., Amarillo, Texas 79106 Telephone (806) 468-7486

Scott Williamson, Engineering Specialist
Alan Mann, Engineering Assistant

Midland Region 2 - Petroleum Building, 214 West Texas, Suite 803, Midland, Texas 79701 Telephone (915) 570-5884

Glenn Taylor, Area Supervisor (Midland/Amarillo)
Larry Felio, P.E., Engineer
Keith Smith, Engineering Assistant
Tim Murray, Engineering Specialist (Abilene)

Kilgore Region 3 - 619 Henderson Boulevard, Kilgore, Texas 75662 Telephone (903) 984-8581

Bob Oldham, Engineering Specialist
James Alexander, Engineering Specialist
Jerry Hill, Engineering Specialist

Austin Region 4 - 1701 North Congress, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 Telephone (512) 463-7050

Johnny Burgess, Engineering Specialist
Mark Arguelles, Program Administrator

Houston Region 5 -1706 Seamist Drive, Ste 501, Houston, Texas 77008-3135 Telephone (713) 869-8425

Danny Nichols, Area Supervisor
Jerry Hoff, Engineering Specialist
Jim Arnold, Engineering Specialist
Randy Vaughn, Engineering Assistant
Gregory Johnson, Engineering Assistant
Frank Henderson, Engineering Assistant

Dallas Region 6 -1546 Rowlett Rd., Suite 107, Garland, Texas 75043 Telephone (972) 240-5757

Jody Kerl, P.E., Area Supervisor (Dallas/Kilgore)
M. Kathryn Williams-Guzman, Engineering Specialist
San Sein, Engineering Assistant

Corpus Christi Region 7 -10320 IH-37, P.O. Box 10307, Corpus Christi, Texas 78460-0307 Telephone (361) 242-3117

Don Gault, Area Supervisor
Steven Schmidt, Engineering Specialist
Steven Rios, Engineering Assistant
Jesse Cantu, Jr., Engineering Assistant

B. Monthly Summary (January)

No. of distribution safety evaluations - 106
No. of transmission safety evaluations - 69
No. of liquid safety evaluations - 11
No. of leak/calls - 48
No. of accident investigations - 11
No. of special investigations - 19

C. Reporting of Pipeline Accidents1) **NATURAL GAS**

Accidents on intrastate gas systems involving \$5,000 property damage, a fatality or injuries, gas ignition, or that are judged significant must be reported by telephone within two hours, and the written report filed within thirty (30) days. Call the 24-hour emergency phone number (512)463-6788 to report an accident. For your convenience this priority phone line is used only to report emergencies.

2) **HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS**

Accidents on intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines reportable under 49 CFR Sections 195.50 and 195.52 and 16 TAC Section 7.84(a) must be reported by telephone within two hours and the required written report filed within thirty (30) days. Call the 24-hour emergency phone number (512)463-6788 to report an accident. For your convenience this priority phone line is used only to report emergencies.

Rules and Regulations:

[Federal Register: March 5, 2002 (Volume 67, Number 43)]
[Notices]
[Page 10038-10039]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr05mr02-101]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket RSPA-98-4957]

Request for Public Comments and Office of Management and Budget
(OMB) Approval of an Existing Information Collection

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of
Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice seeks comments from the public regarding the need for RSPA to collect paperwork from gas service line operators to ensure that customers receiving gas pipeline service are aware of the availability of excess flow valves (EFV's). This notice is published (pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995) to measure the need for the paperwork collection on EFV's, ways to minimize the burden on operators who must respond, ways to enhance the quality of the information collected, and to verify the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (measured in work hours) on pipeline operators. By advising customers of the availability of excess flow valves, the notices give customers information to help them decide if they would like to purchase excess flow valves for their line.

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DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 6, 2002 to ensure consideration.

ADDRESSES: Please address your comments to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. You must identify the docket number RSPA-98-4957 at the beginning of your comments, and you should submit two copies of your comments. If you wish to receive confirmation that RSPA received your comments, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. You may also submit comments by the Internet to <http://dms.dot.gov> Once on the DMS Web site scroll down the page and click on "Electronic Submission" and follow the instructions.

You may review the public docket containing comments in person in the Dockets Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal Holidays. The Dockets Office is on the plaza level of the NASSIF Building at the Department of Transportation at the above address. Also, you may review public dockets on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov/search>. Once on the search page, type in the last four digits of the docket number shown at the beginning of this notice (in this case 4957) and click on "search."

Comments are invited on: (a) The need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, OPS, RSPA, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20950, telephone (202) 366-6205 or e-mail marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title of Information Collection: Excess Flow Valves, Customer Notification.

OMB Number: 2137-0593.

Abstract: 49 U.S.C. 60110 directed DOT to prescribe regulations requiring operators to notify customers in writing about EFV availability, the safety benefits derived from installation, and the costs associated with installation. The regulations provide that, except where installation is already required, the operator will install an EFV that meets prescribed performance criteria at the customer's request, if the customer pays for the installation. Respondents: Gas Distribution Pipeline Operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1590.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20,000 hours.

As used in this notice, the terms `paperwork information' and `paperwork collection' are synonymous, and include all work related to preparing and disseminating information related to this customer notification requirement including completing paperwork, gathering information and conducting telephone calls.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 20, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
[FR Doc. 02-4479 Filed 3-4-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

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[Notices]
[Page 10039-10040]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket: RSPA-98-4957]

Request for Public Comments and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Approval of an Existing Information Collection

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice seeks comments from the public regarding the need for RSPA to collect paperwork information from gas distribution service line operators to ensure that those operators who do not maintain all of their piping notify their customers that they must maintain the piping. This notice is published to measure the need for the proposed paperwork collection, ways to minimize the burden on operators who must respond, ways to enhance the quality of the information collected, and to verify the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (measured in work hours) on the regulated industry. By advising customers of the need to maintain their buried gas piping, the notices reduce the risk of accidents.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 6, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Please address your comments to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. You must identify the docket number RSPA-98-4957 at the beginning of your comments, and you should submit two copies of your comments. If you wish to receive confirmation that RSPA received your comments, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. You may also submit comments by the Internet to <http://dms.dot.gov> Once on the DMS website scroll down the page and click on "Electronic Submission" and follow the instructions. You may review the public docket containing comments in person in the Dockets Office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. The Dockets Office is on the plaza level of the NASSIF Building at the Department of Transportation at the above address. Also, you may review public dockets on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov/search>. Once on the search page, type in the last four digits of the docket number shown at the beginning of this notice (in this case 4957) and click on "search." Comments are invited on: (a) The need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, OPS, RSPA, Department of Transportation (DOT), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590 or call at (202) 366-6205 by e-mail to marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title of Information Collection: Customer-Owned Service Lines, Customer Notification.
Type of Request: Existing information collection.

Abstract: RSPA regulation (49 CFR 192.16) requires operators of gas service lines who do not maintain buried customer piping up to building walls or certain other locations to notify their customers of the need to maintain that piping. Congress directed DOT to take

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this action in view of service line accidents. By advising customers of the need to maintain their buried gas piping, the notices may reduce the risk of further accidents.

In addition, each operator must make the following records available for inspection by RSPA or a State agency participating under 49 U.S.C. 60105 or 60106: (1) A copy of the notice currently in use; and (2) evidence that notices have been sent to customers within the previous 3 years.

As used in this notice, the terms 'information collection' and 'paperwork collection' are synonymous, and include all work related to preparing and disseminating information related to this customer notification requirement including completing paperwork, gathering information and conducting telephone calls.

Estimate of Burden: Minimal.

Respondents: Gas transmission and distribution operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,590,

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 350.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9,137 hours.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 20, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 02-4480 Filed 3-4-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket: RSPA-98-4957]

Request for Public Comments and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Approval of an Existing Information Collection

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice seeks comments from the public regarding the need for RSPA to collect paperwork information from state agencies that maintain programs to regulate pipelines. The purpose of the paperwork requested from the state agencies is to ensure that these states are properly monitoring the operations of pipeline operators in their states, and to determine Federal grant amounts for these states. This notice is published (pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995) to measure the need for the paperwork collection from these state agencies, ways to minimize the burden on states that must respond, ways to enhance the quality of information collected, and to verify the accuracy of the RSPA's estimate of the burden (measured in work hours) on states. The RSPA published a notice on October 12, 2001 requesting public comment. No comments were received. This notice also seeks approval from the Office of Management and Budget to renew the existing approval of this paperwork collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 4, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should identify the docket number of this notice, RSPA-98-4957. Comments can be mailed directly to Office of Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 726 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20503, ATTN: Desk Officer for DOT.

Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimated or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, Office of Pipeline Safety, RSPA, DOT, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590 (202) 366-6205 or by e-mail at marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 601, Title 49, United States Code (49 U.S.C.) authorizes DOT to regulate pipeline transportation. While DOT is primarily responsible for developing, issuing, and enforcing minimum pipeline safety regulations, Chapter 601, 49 U.S.C., provides for state assumption of all or part of the regulatory and enforcement responsibility for intrastate pipelines.

Section 60105 of 49 U.S.C. set forth specific requirements a state must meet to qualify for certification status to assume regulatory and enforcement responsibility for intrastate pipelines, i.e., state adoption of minimum federal safety standards, state inspection of pipeline operators to determine compliance with the standards, and state provision for enforcement sanctions substantially the same as those authorized by Chapter 601, 49 U.S.C. A participating state must annually submit a section 60105(a) Gas Pipeline Safety Program Certification and/or a Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Program Certification to the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) signifying compliance with the terms of the certification.

As used in this notice, 'information collection' and 'paperwork collection' are synonymous, and include all work related to preparing and disseminating information related to this recordkeeping requirement including completing paperwork, gathering information and conducting telephone calls. Type of Information Collection Request: Renewal of Existing Collection.

Title of Information Collection: Certification and Agreement Forms for the Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Program.

OMB Approval Number: 2137-0584.

Frequency: Annually.

Use: This collection is used by RSPA to ensure that State agencies attesting they have regulatory jurisdiction over pipeline safety have adopted and are complying with minimum Federal safety standards. This information is used to calculate grants to States.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 61.

Respondents: State Agencies.

Total Annual Hours Requested: 3,649.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 20, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 02-4481 Filed 3-4-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket RSPA-98-4957]

Submission for Office of Management and Budget Approval and Public Comment Request

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Request for public comments and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of an existing information collection.

SUMMARY: This notice seeks comments from the public regarding the need for RSPA to collect paperwork information from liquefied natural gas operators to ensure that these operators are properly operating and maintaining their facilities. This notice is published (pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction

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Act of 1995) to measure the need for the proposed paperwork collection, ways to minimize the burden on operators who must respond, ways to enhance the quality of information collected, and to verify the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (measured in work hours) on pipeline operators. The RSPA published a notice on October 12, 2001, requesting public comment. No comments were received. This notice also seeks approval from the Office of Management and Budget to renew the existing approval of this paperwork collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 4, 2002 to assure consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should identify the docket number of this notice, RSPA-98-4957. Comments can be mailed directly to the Office of Regulatory Affairs, OMB, 726 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503, ATTN: Desk Officer for the Department of Transportation. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, Office of Pipeline Safety, RSPA, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-6205 or by e-mail at marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 49 U.S.C. 60103 titled "Standards for Liquefied Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities" delegates the responsibility for ensuring safe operation of LNG facilities to the Secretary of Transportation. Regulations for enforcing this legislation are found in 49 CFR part 193 "Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities: Federal Safety Standards." These regulations include recordkeeping requirements that allow Federal and State inspectors to ensure that these facilities are operated and maintained in a safe manner.

Type of Information Request: Renewal of an existing information collection.

Title of Information Collection: Recordkeeping for Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Facilities.

OMB Approval Number: 2137-0048.

Frequency: On occasion.

Use: This collection is used by RSPA to ensure that LNG facilities are being operated in a safe manner.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 150.

Respondents: LNG facility operators.

Total Annual Hours Requested: 18,000 hours.

As used in this notice, the terms "information collection" and "paperwork collection" are synonymous, and include all work related to preparing and disseminating information related to this recordkeeping requirement including completing paperwork, gathering information and conducting telephone calls.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 20, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 02-4477 Filed 3-4-02; 8:45 am]

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[Page 10041-10042]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket Number RSPA-98-4957]

Request for Public Comments and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Approval of Existing Information Collection

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice seeks comments from the public regarding the need for RSPA to collect paperwork information from gas pipeline operators. The purpose of the paperwork requested from gas operators is to ensure that these operators are properly operating and maintaining their pipelines. This notice is published (pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995) to measure the need for the paperwork collection from gas operators, ways to minimize the burden on operators who must respond, ways to enhance the quality of information collected, and to verify the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (measured in work hours) on pipeline operators. The RSPA published a notice on October 12, 2001, requesting public comment. No comments were received. This notice also seeks approval from the Office of Management and Budget to renew the existing approval of this paperwork collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 4, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should identify the docket number of this notice, RSPA-98-4957. Comments can be mailed directly to Office of Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 726 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Desk Officer for the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Comments are invited on: (a) The need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, OPS, RSPA, DOT, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-6205, or by e-mail at marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title of Information Collection:
Recordkeeping for Gas Pipeline Operators.

OMB Number: 2137-0049.

Type of Request: Renewal of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: 49 U.S.C. 60117 explains that, in order to enable the Secretary of Transportation to decide whether a person transporting gas is complying with Federal safety standards, this statute requires the maintenance of records and reports and that these and other requested information be provided to DOT upon request. These records help ascertain compliance and provide information for incident investigation.

Estimate of Burden: The average burden hours per operator is 41.5.

Respondents: Gas Pipeline operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 22,700.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 940,991.

As used in this notice, 'information collection' and 'paperwork collection' are synonymous, and include all work related to preparing and disseminating information related to this recordkeeping requirement including completing paperwork, gathering information and conducting telephone calls.

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Issued in Washington, DC, on February 20, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 02-4478 Filed 3-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

4. REGULATORY ANALYSIS AND POLICY**A.** Maintains the following office to assist you:

Headquarters - William B. Travis Building
1701 North Congress, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711
Karl Nalepa, Assistant Director

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B. Gas Utilities Information Bulletin

Published on the Commission's web site at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/rapbls.html>.

C. Proposals For Decision

Published on the Commission's web site at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/pfds.html>.

D. Tariff Filings

Questions pertaining to the filing of tariffs and/or quality of service rules should be directed to Kathy Arroyo, or Sandra Soto at (512) 463-7164.

E. Curtailements

Curtailement questions should be referred to Sandra Soto at (512) 463-7164. Curtailement reports made Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., should be made to (512) 463-7164. Curtailement reports made during hours other than those specified above and holidays, should be made to (512) 463-6788, (512) 896-3863 (digital pager), (512) 892-1772 or (512) 280-5949.

F. Compliance Filings

Questions regarding gas utilities docket compliance filing requirements should be referred to Jackie Standard at (512) 463-7164.

G. Complaints and Inquiries

All complaints and inquiries relating to the gas utility industry should be directed to the Regulatory Analysis and Policy section at (512) 463-7164.

5. HEARINGS AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**A. Miscellaneous**

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of appendices to Orders appearing in Section 5 of this Bulletin should contact the Legal Division at (512) 463-7017.

B. Status of Pending Cases

The status of all pending cases listed in Section 3 of this Bulletin is for informational purposes only and is complete up to the time of printing of this Bulletin. For a more accurate status of pending cases, please call the Legal Division at (512) 463-7017.