

OFHEO documents or to testify with respect thereto, such person shall immediately notify the General Counsel of such service, of the testimony and described documents in the demand, and of all relevant facts. Such person shall also object to the production of such documents or information contained therein on the basis that the documents are the property of OFHEO and cannot be released without OFHEO's consent and that their production must be sought from OFHEO following the procedures set forth in § 1710.33, paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 1710.34, and paragraph (b) of § 1710.37 of this subpart.

Subpart F—Rules and Procedures for Service Upon OFHEO

§ 1710.51 Service of process.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by OFHEO regulations, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or order of a court with jurisdiction over OFHEO, any legal process upon OFHEO, including a legal process served on OFHEO demanding access to its records under the FOIA, shall be duly issued and served upon the General Counsel and any OFHEO personnel named in the caption of the documents.

(b) Service of process upon the General Counsel may be effected by personally delivering a copy of the documents to the General Counsel or by sending a copy of the documents to the General Counsel by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, to the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552.

Dated: December 17, 1998.

Mark Kinsey,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

18 CFR Part 284

[Docket No. RM96-1-012]

Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines

Issued December 17, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; order establishing implementation date for OBA regulations.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is establishing April 1, 1999, as the date by which pipelines are required to comply with the regulations requiring pipelines to enter into operational balancing agreements with interconnecting interstate and intrastate pipelines. (18 CFR § 284.10(c)(2)(i)). These regulations were adopted in Order No. 587-G. (63 FR 20072).

DATES: Pipelines must comply with 18 CFR § 284.10(c)(2)(i) by April 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Goldenberg, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-2294

Marvin Rosenberg, Office of Economic Policy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1283

Kay Morice, Office of Pipeline Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0507

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 the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 20426. The Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS) provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission. CIPS can be accessed via Internet through FERC's Homepage (<http://www.ferc.fed.us>) using the CIPS Link or the Energy Information Online icon. The full text of this document will be available on CIPS in ASCII and WordPerfect 6.1 format. CIPS is also available through the Commission's electronic bulletin board service at no charge to the user and may be accessed using a personal computer with a modem by dialing 202-208-1397, if dialing locally, or 1-800-856-3920, if dialing long distance. To access CIPS, set your communications software to 19200, 14400, 12000, 9600, 7200, 4800, 2400, or 1200 bps, full duplex, no parity, 8 data bits and 1 stop bit. User assistance is available at 202-208-2474 or by E-mail to CipsMaster@FERC.fed.us.

This document is also available through the Commission's Records and

Information Management System (RIMS), an electronic storage and retrieval system of documents submitted to and issued by the Commission after November 16, 1981. Documents from November 1995 to the present can be viewed and printed. RIMS is available in the Public Reference Room or remotely via Internet through FERC's Homepage using the RIMS link or the Energy Information Online icon. User assistance is available at 202-208-2222, or by E-mail to RimsMaster@FERC.fed.us.

Finally, the complete text on diskette in WordPerfect format may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, RVJ International, Inc. RVJ International, Inc., is located in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Before Commissioners: James J. Hoecker, Chairman; Vicky A. Bailey, William L. Massey, Linda Breathitt, and Curt Hébert, Jr.

In Order No. 587-G,¹ the Commission adopted a regulation (284.10(c)(2)(i))² requiring each interstate pipeline to enter into operational balancing agreements (OBAs) at points of interconnection between its system and the system of another interstate or intrastate pipeline. In Order No. 587-G, the Commission deferred implementation of this regulation until the Gas Industry Standards Board (GISB) had an opportunity to develop standards related to OBAs and imbalance trading. The Commission also stated that the pipelines would have three months from the date on which final OBA regulations are adopted to conclude OBA agreements with interconnecting interstate and intrastate pipelines.³

On November 9, 1998, GISB filed with the Commission a report on its standards development progress. GISB reports that its Executive Committee approved a model OBA on July 16, 1998,⁴ and that its OBA standards are completed.⁵

¹ Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines, Order No. 587-G, 63 FR 20072 (Apr. 23, 1998), III FERC Stats. & Regs. Regulations Preambles ¶ 31,062 (Apr. 16, 1998), *on reh'g*, Order No. 587-I, 63 FR 53565 (Oct. 6, 1998), III FERC Stats. & Regs. Regulations Preambles ¶ 31,067 (Sep. 29, 1998).

² 18 CFR § 284.10(c)(2)(i).

³ Order No. 587-G 63 FR at 20080, III FERC Stats. & Regs. Regulations Preambles ¶ 31,062 at 30,676.

⁴ In Order No. 587-G, the Commission found that pipelines did not have to adopt a standard OBA if its terms are inapplicable to their situation, although a standard OBA would provide a benchmark in the event of disputes over OBA provisions. Order No. 587-G, 63 FR at 20081, III FERC Stats. & Regs. Regulations Preambles ¶ 31,062 at 30,676-77.

⁵ GISB's November 9, 1998 filing, Docket No. RM96-1-010, at Appendix 5.

Since the OBA standards are now complete, the Commission is establishing an April 1, 1999 date for the pipelines to comply with the requirement to enter into OBAs with interconnecting interstate and intrastate pipelines. In Order No. 587-G, the Commission determined that pipelines would not have to file OBAs with the Commission as long as they maintained the contracts and made them available, along with all relevant records of volumes and amounts paid, to the Commission and any person requesting copies.⁶ Since pipelines are not required to file OBA contracts with the Commission, each pipeline will be required to file by April 1, 1999, a statement as to whether it has complied with § 284.10(c)(2)(i) of the regulations at all pipeline to pipeline interconnects on its system.

The Commission orders:

(A) Each interstate pipeline must comply with § 284.10(c)(2)(i) of the Commission's regulations by April 1, 1999.

(B) Each interstate pipeline must file by April 1, 1999, a statement setting forth its compliance with § 284.10(c)(2)(i) of the Commission's regulations.

By the Commission.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 101

[Docket No. 98N-1149]

Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is establishing January 1, 2002, as the uniform compliance date for food labeling regulations that are issued between January 1, 1999, and December 31, 2000. FDA periodically announces uniform compliance dates for new food labeling requirements to minimize the economic impact of label changes. On December 27, 1996, FDA established January 1, 2000, as the uniform compliance date

for food labeling regulations that issued between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 1998.

DATES: This regulation is effective December 23, 1998. Submit written comments by March 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hilario R. Duncan, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-150), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-205-8281.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FDA periodically issues regulations requiring changes in the labeling of food. If the effective dates of these labeling changes were not coordinated, the cumulative economic impact on the food industry of having to respond separately to each change would be substantial. Therefore, the agency periodically has announced uniform compliance dates for new food labeling requirements (see e.g., the **Federal Registers** of October 19, 1984 (49 FR 41019), December 24, 1996 (61 FR 67710), and December 27, 1996 (61 FR 68145)). Use of a uniform compliance date provides for an orderly and economical industry adjustment to new labeling requirements by allowing sufficient lead time to plan for the use of existing label inventories and the development of new labeling materials. This policy serves consumers' interests as well because the cost of multiple short-term label revisions that would otherwise occur would likely be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

The agency has determined under 21 CFR 25.30(k) that this action is of a type that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

This final rule contains no collections of information. Therefore, clearance by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 is not required.

FDA has examined the economic implications of this final rule as required by Executive Order 12866. Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health, safety, distributive, and equity effects).

Executive Order 12866 classifies a rule as "economically significant" if it meets any one of a number of specified conditions including having an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million, adversely affecting some sector of the economy in a material way, or adversely affecting jobs or competition. A regulation is considered a "significant" regulatory action under Executive Order 12866 if it raises novel legal or policy issues. FDA finds that this final rule is neither an economically significant rule nor a significant regulatory action as defined by Executive Order 12866. In addition, in accordance with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, the administration of the Office of Management and Budget has determined that this final rule is not a major rule for purposes of congressional review. The establishment of a uniform compliance date does not impose either costs or benefits. For future labeling requirements, FDA will assess the costs and benefits of the uniform compliance date as well as the option of setting other dates.

Because FDA has issued this final rule without first publishing a general notice of proposed rulemaking, a final regulatory analysis is not required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612). Nonetheless, the uniform compliance date does not impose any burden on small entities. The agency will assess the costs and benefits of setting alternative dates as part of the regulatory flexibility analyses of future labeling regulations.

This action is not intended to change existing requirements for compliance dates contained in final rules published before publication of this final rule. Therefore, all final FDA regulations published in the **Federal Register** before December 23, 1998, will still go into effect on the date stated in the respective final rule.

The agency generally encourages industry to comply with new labeling regulations as quickly as feasible, however. Thus, when industry members voluntarily change their labels, it is appropriate that they incorporate any new requirements that have been published as final regulations up to that time.

In rulemaking that began with publication of a proposal on April 15, 1996 (61 FR 16422), and ended with a final rule on December 24, 1996 (61 FR 67710), FDA provided notice and an opportunity for comment on the practice of establishing uniform compliance dates by issuance of a final rule announcing the date. Receiving no comments objecting to this practice, FDA finds any further rulemaking

⁶ Order No. 587-G, 63 FR at 20080, III FERC Stats. & Regs. Regulations Preambles ¶ 31,062 at 30,676.