

## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

## § 3b.203

so lengthy as to deter an individual from reading it, of:

(1) The specific provision of the statute or executive order of the President, including the brief title or subject of that statute or order which authorizes the solicitation of the information; whether disclosure of such information is mandatory or voluntary; and whether the Commission is authorized or required to impose penalties for failing to respond;

(2) The principal purpose or purposes for which the information is intended to be used;

(3) The routine uses which may be made of the information, as described in the FEDERAL REGISTER in the notice of the system of records in which the information is maintained, and which are relatable and necessary to a purpose described pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section; and

(4) The effects (beneficial and adverse) on the individual if any, of not providing all or any part of the requested information.

(c) Social security numbers will not be required from individuals whom the Commission asks to supply information unless the disclosure of the number is required by Federal statute or unless disclosure is to the Commission maintaining a system of records in existence and operating before January 1, 1975, if such disclosure was required pursuant to a statute or regulation adopted prior to such date to verify the identity of an individual. When an individual is requested to disclose his social security number to the Commission, he will be informed under what statutory or other authority such number is solicited, what uses will be made of it, whether disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, and if it is mandatory, under what provisions of law or regulation.

(d) The use of third-party sources to collect information about an individual may be appropriate in certain circumstances. In determining when the use of third-party sources would be appropriate, the following considerations will govern:

(1) When the information needed can only be obtained from a third party;

(2) When the cost of collecting the information directly from the individual

concerned far exceeds the cost of collecting it from a third party;

(3) When there is little risk that the information proposed to be collected from the third party, if inaccurate, could result in an adverse determination about the individual concerned.

(4) When there is a need to insure the accuracy of information supplied by an individual by verifying it with a third party, or there is a need to obtain a qualitative assessment of the individual's capabilities or character; or

(5) When there are provisions for verifying any third-party information with the individual concerned before making a determination based on that information.

Third party sources, where feasible, will be informed of the purposes for which information which they are asked to provide will be used. In appropriate circumstances, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k) (2), (5), and (7), the Commission may assure a third party that his identity will not be revealed to the subject of the collected information.

### § 3b.203 Rules of conduct.

(a) The Executive Director of the Commission has the overall administrative responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 and overseeing the conduct of all Commission employees with respect to the act.

(b) It is the responsibility of the Comptroller of the Commission, under the guidance of the Executive Director, to prepare the appropriate internal administrative procedures to assure that all persons involved in the design, development, or operation of any system of records, or in collecting, using, or disseminating any individual record, and who have access to any system of records, are informed of all rules and requirements of the Commission to protect the privacy of the individuals who are the subjects of the records, including the applicable provisions of the FPC Standards of Conduct for Employees, Special Government Employees and Commissioners, specifically 18 CFR 3.207(e) and 3.228(d).

(c) The Director, Office of Personnel Programs, is responsible for establishing and conducting an adequate training program for such persons

whose official duties require access to and collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of such records.

(d) The General Counsel of the Commission is responsible for providing legal interpretation of the Privacy Act of 1974, and for preparing all agency rules and notices for official publication in compliance with the act.

(e) Commission employees will be informed of all the implications of their actions in this area, including especially:

(1) That there are criminal penalties for knowing and willful unauthorized disclosure of material within a system of records; for willful failure to publish a public notice of the existence of a system of records; and for knowingly and willfully requesting or obtaining records under false pretenses;

(2) That the Commission may be subject to civil suit due to failure to amend an individual's record in accordance with his request or failure to review his request in conformity with § 3b.224; refusal to comply with an individual's request of access to a record under § 3b.221; willful or intentional failure to maintain a record accurately pursuant to § 3b.201(b) and consequently a determination is made which is adverse to the individual; or willful or intentional failure to comply with any other provision of the Privacy Act of 1974, or any rule promulgated thereunder, in such a way as to have an adverse effect upon an individual.

**§ 3b.204 Safeguarding information in manual and computer-based record systems.**

(a) The administrative and physical controls to protect the information in the manual and computer-based record systems from unauthorized access or disclosure will be specified for each system in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The system managers, who are responsible for providing protection and accountability of such records at all times and for insuring that the records are secured in proper containers whenever they are not in use or under direct control of authorized persons, will be identified for each system of records in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) Whenever records in the manual or computer-based record systems, in-

cluding input and output documents, punched cards, and magnetic tapes or disks, are not under the personal control of an authorized person, they will be stored in lockable containers and/or in a secured room, or in alternative storage systems which furnish an equivalent or greater degree of physical security. In this regard, the Commission may refer to security guidelines prepared by the General Services Administration, the Department of Commerce (National Bureau of Standards), or other agencies with appropriate knowledge and expertise.

(c) Access to and use of records will only be permitted to persons pursuant to §§ 3b.221, 3b.224, and 3b.225. Access to areas where records are stored will be limited to those persons whose official duties require work in such areas. Proper control of data, in any form, associated with the manual and computer-based record systems will be maintained at all times, including maintenance of an accounting of removal of the records from the storage area.

**Subpart C—Rules for Disclosure of Records**

**§ 3b.220 Notification of maintenance of records to individuals concerned.**

(a) Upon written request, either in person or by mail, to the appropriate system manager specified for each system of records, an individual will be notified whether a system of records maintained by the Commission and named by the individual contains a record or records pertaining to him and filed under his individual name, or some other identifying particular.

(b) The system manager may require appropriate identification pursuant to § 3b.222, and if necessary, may request from the individual additional information needed to locate the record which the individual should reasonably be expected to know, such as, but not limited to, date of birth, place of birth, and a parent's first name.

(c) When practicable, the system manager will provide a written acknowledgement of the inquiry within ten days of receipt of the inquiry (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal public holidays) and notification of