

Commission) has prepared a final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Hillabee Expansion, Sabal Trail, and Florida Southeast Connection (FSC) Projects as proposed by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC (Sabal Trail), and Florida Southeast Connection, LLC (FSC), respectively, in the above-referenced dockets. These are separate, but connected, natural gas transmission pipeline projects collectively referred to as the Southeast Market Pipelines (SMP) Project. The applicants request authorization to construct and operate a total of about 686.0 miles of natural gas transmission pipeline and associated facilities, six new natural gas-fired compressor stations, and modify existing compressor stations in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. The SMP Project would provide about 1.1 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas to meet growing demands by the electric generation, distribution, and end use markets in Florida and the southeast United States.

The final EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the SMP Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the SMP Project would have some adverse environmental impacts; however, these impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of the applicants' proposed mitigation and the additional measures recommended in the final EIS.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the final EIS. The USACE has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposals and participate in the NEPA analysis. The USACE may adopt and use the EIS as it has jurisdictional authority pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which governs the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, which regulates any work or structures that potentially affect the navigable capacity of navigable waters of the United States; and section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act which regulates the temporary occupation of water-related structures constructed by the United States. Although the cooperating agency provides input to the conclusions and recommendations presented in the final EIS, the agency will present its own

conclusions and recommendations in its Record of Decision for the project.

The final EIS of the SMP Project addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following project facilities:

The Hillabee Expansion Project would include:

- Approximately 43.5 miles of new 42- and 48-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline loop<sup>1</sup> in Alabama;
- one new compressor station in Choctaw County, Alabama and modifications to three existing compressor stations in Dallas, Chilton, and Coosa Counties, Alabama; and
- installation of pig<sup>2</sup> launchers/receivers and mainline valves (MLVs).

The Sabal Trail Project would include:

- approximately 516.2 miles of new natural gas pipeline in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, including:
  - 481.6 miles of 36-inch-diameter mainline pipeline in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida;
  - the 21.5-mile-long, 24-inch-diameter Citrus County Line in Florida; and
  - the 13.1-mile-long, 36-inch-diameter Hunters Creek Line in Florida;
- five new compressor stations in Tallapoosa County, Alabama; Dougherty County, Georgia; and Suwannee, Marion, and Osceola Counties, Florida;
- subsequent modifications to two of the new compressor stations in Dougherty County, Georgia and Suwannee County, Florida; and
- installation of pig launchers/receivers, MLVs, and meter and regulating stations.

The FSC Project would include:

- approximately 126.3 miles of new 30- and 36-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline in Florida; and
- installation of pig launchers/receivers, MLVs, and meter and regulating stations.

The FERC staff mailed copies of the final EIS 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; newspapers and libraries in the project area; and parties to this proceeding. Paper copy versions of the final EIS were mailed to those specifically requesting them; all others received a

<sup>1</sup> A loop is a segment of pipe that is installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to it at both ends. A loop generally allows more gas to move through the system.

<sup>2</sup> A pig is an internal tool that can be used to clean and dry a pipeline and/or to inspect it for damage or corrosion.

CD version. In addition, the final EIS is available for public viewing on the FERC's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. A limited number of copies are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8371.

Additional information about the SMP Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search," and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (*i.e.*, CP14-554, CP15-16, and CP15-17). 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; for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription that allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp).

Dated: December 18, 2015.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2015-32402 Filed 12-23-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC16-5-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities; Consolidated Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collections and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or

FERC) is soliciting public comment on the requirements and burden of the FERC-714 (Annual Electric Balancing Authority Area and Planning Area Report) and FERC-730 (Report of Transmission Investment Activity) information collections.

**DATES:** Comments on the collections of information are due February 22, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC16-5-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's Web site:* <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.

Please reference the specific collection number and/or title in your comments.

*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 in 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), telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Type of Request:* Three-year extension of the information collection requirements for all collections described below with no changes to the current reporting requirements. Please note that each collection is distinct from the next.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collections of information are 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 estimates of the burden<sup>1</sup> and cost of the collections of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collections; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**FERC-714, [Annual Electric Balancing Authority Area and Planning Area Report]<sup>2</sup>**

OMB Control No.: 1902-0140.

*Abstract:* The Commission uses the FERC-714 data to analyze power system operations. These analyses estimate the effect of changes in power system operations resulting from the installation of a new generating unit or plant, transmission facilities, energy transfers between systems, and/or new points of interconnections. The FERC-714 data assists in providing a broad picture of interconnected balancing authority area operations including comprehensive information of balancing authority area generation, actual and scheduled inter-balancing authority area power transfers, and net energy for load, summer and winter generation peaks and system lambda. The Commission also uses the data to prepare status reports on the electric utility industry including a review of inter-balancing authority area bulk power trade information.

The Commission uses the collected data from planning areas to monitor forecasted demands by electric utilities with fundamental demand responsibilities and to develop hourly demand characteristics.

*Type of Respondent:* Electric utility balancing authorities and planning areas in the United States.

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

**FERC-714 (ANNUAL ELECTRIC BALANCING AUTHORITY AREA AND PLANNING AREA REPORT)**

Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden & cost per response <sup>6</sup>	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost	Cost per respondent (\$)
(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
177 .....	1	177	87 \$5,973	15,399 \$1,057,295	\$5,973

**FERC-730, [Report of Transmission Investment Activity]**

OMB Control No.: 1902-0239.

*Abstract:* Pursuant to Section 219<sup>4</sup> of the Federal Power Act, the Commission issued FERC Order No. 679,<sup>5</sup> Promoting Transmission Investment Through

Pricing Reform. In Order No. 679 FERC amended its regulations in 18 CFR 35.35 to establish incentive-based (including performance-based) rate treatments for the transmission of electric energy in interstate commerce by public utilities. The Commission intended the order to

benefit consumers by ensuring reliability and to reduce the cost of delivered power by reducing transmission congestion. Order No. 679 also adopted an annual reporting requirement (FERC-730) for utilities that receive incentive rate treatment for

<sup>1</sup> The Commission defines burden 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.

<sup>2</sup> The renewal request in this IC docket is for the current FERC-714, with no change to the reporting requirements. The FERC-714 is also part of the

Forms Refresh effort (started in Docket No. AD15-11), which is a separate activity.

<sup>3</sup> The hourly cost (wages plus benefits), is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2014 National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates (at [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2\\_22.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm)). The average hourly cost (wages plus benefits) of \$68.66/hour is the average of the following: (a) Management (Code 11-0000), \$78.04/hr; (b) Computer and mathematical (Code 15-0000), \$58.25/hr; (c) Electrical Engineers (Code 17-2071),

\$66.45/hr; (d) Economist (Code 19-3011), \$73.04/hr; (e) Computer and Information Systems Managers (Code 11-3021), \$94.55/hr; (f) Accountants and Auditors (Code 13-2011), \$51.11/hr; (g) Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers (Code 11-3071), \$73.65/hr; (h) Power Distributors and Dispatchers (Code 51-8012), \$54.16/hr.

<sup>4</sup> Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-58, 119 Stat. 594, 315 and 1283 (2005).

<sup>5</sup> RM06-4-000 (issued July 20, 2006), published: 71 FR 43294

specific transmission projects. The FERC-730 provides annual data on transmission capital expenditures as well as project status detail. The Commission requires that filers specify which projects are currently receiving incentives in the project detail table and that they group together those facilities receiving the same incentive. Specifically, in accordance with the statute, public utilities with incentive rates must file:

- Actual transmission investment for the most recent calendar year, and projected, incremental investments for

the next five calendar years (in dollar terms); and

- a project by project listing that specifies for each project the most up to date, expected completion date, percentage completion as of the date of filing, and reasons for delays for all current and projected investments over the next five calendar years. Projects with projected costs less than \$20 million are excluded from this listing.

To ensure that Commission rules are successfully meeting the objectives of Section 219, the Commission collects industry data, projections and related information that detail the level of

investment. FERC-730 information regarding projected investments as well as information about completed projects allows the Commission to monitor the success of the transmission pricing reforms and to determine the status of critical projects and reasons for delay.

*Type of Respondent:* Public utilities that have been granted incentives based rate treatment for specific transmission projects under the provisions of 18 CFR 35.35(h) must file the FERC-730.

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

FERC-730 (REPORT OF TRANSMISSION INVESTMENT ACTIVITY)

Number of respondents  (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent  (2)	Total number of responses  (1) * (2) = (3)	Average burden & cost per response <sup>6</sup>  (4)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost  (3) * (4) = (5)	Cost per respondent (\$)  (5) ÷ (1)
63	1	63	30 \$2,160	1,890 \$136,080	\$2,160

Dated: December 16, 2015.  
**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*  
 [FR Doc. 2015-32131 Filed 12-23-15; 8:45 am]  
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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[ER-FRL-9024-6]

**Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability**

*Responsible Agency:* Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7146 or <http://www2.epa.gov/nepa>.  
*Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)*  
 Filed 12/14/2015 Through 12/18/2015 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

**Notice**

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: <http://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-nepa-public/action/eis/search>.

*EIS No. 20150358, Draft, USACE, FL, Herbert Hoover Dike Dam Safety Modification, Comment Period Ends: 02/08/2016, Contact: Stacie Auvenshine 904-232-3694.*  
*EIS No. 20150359, Draft, USFS, OR, Gap Landscape Restoration Project, Comment Period Ends: 02/08/2016,*

Contact: Gary Asbridge 541-416-6500.  
*EIS No. 20150360, Final, FERC, FL, Southeast Market Pipelines Project, Review Period Ends: 01/25/2016, Contact: John Peconom 202-502-6352.*  
*EIS No. 20150361, Draft Supplement, FTA, CA, Transbay Transit Center Program, Comment Period Ends: 02/29/2016, Contact: Brenda Perez 415-744-2731.*  
*EIS No. 20150362, Final Supplement, FTA, CA, Regional Connector Transit Corridor, Review Period Ends: 01/25/2016, Contact: Mary Nguyen 213-202-3960.*

Dated: December 21, 2015.  
**Dawn Roberts,**  
*Management Analyst, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.*  
 [FR Doc. 2015-32418 Filed 12-23-15; 8:45 am]  
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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0715; FRL-9939-33]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Renewal of Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), this

document announces that EPA is planning to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The ICR, entitled: "Tolerance Petitions for Pesticides on Food/Feed Crops and New Food Use Inert Ingredients" and identified by EPA ICR No. 0597.12 and OMB Control No. 2070-0024, represents the renewal of an existing ICR that is scheduled to expire on August, 31, 2016. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection that is summarized in this document. The ICR and accompanying material are available in the docket for public review and comment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before February 22, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0715, by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.
- *Mail:* OPP Docket, Environmental Protection Agency Docket Center (EPA/DC), (28221T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001.
- *Hand Delivery:* To make special arrangements for hand delivery or