

TABLE 1—CRITERIA FOR QUALIFYING CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY—Continued

Statutory provision	Description	Satisfies (Y/N)
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(iii), as amended by HREA.	On or before August 9, 2013, the facility is not licensed, or exempted from the licensing requirements of Part I of the FPA.	Y

Preliminary Determination: The proposed hydroelectric project will utilize an existing irrigation pipeline, the primary purpose of which is to irrigate Triple Creek Ranch's farm. The addition of the Triple Creek Ranch Hydro Station Project will not alter the conduit's primary purpose. Therefore, based upon the above criteria, Commission staff preliminarily determines that the proposal satisfies the requirements for a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, which is not required to be licensed or exempted from licensing.

Comments and Motions To Intervene: Deadline for filing comments contesting whether the facility meets the qualifying criteria is 45 days from the issuance date of this notice.

Deadline for filing motions to intervene is 30 days from the issuance date of this notice.

Anyone may submit comments or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210 and 385.214. Any motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular proceeding.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents: All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the COMMENTS CONTESTING QUALIFICATION FOR A CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY or MOTION TO INTERVENE, as applicable; (2) state in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of sections 385.2001 through 385.2005 of the Commission's regulations.¹ All comments contesting Commission staff's preliminary determination that the facility meets the qualifying criteria must set forth their evidentiary basis.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system

at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Locations of Notice of Intent: Copies of the notice of intent can be obtained directly from the applicant or such copies can be viewed and reproduced at the Commission in its Public Reference Room, Room 2A, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (*i.e.*, CD18-4) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call toll-free 1-866-208-3676 or email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: December 19, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-27728 Filed 12-22-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC17-15-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-505 and FERC-512); Consolidated Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Comment request.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

(Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the requirements and burden of information collections, FERC-505 (Small Hydropower Projects and Conduit Facilities including License/Relicense, Exemption and Qualifying Conduit Facility Determination) and FERC-512 (Preliminary Permit) which will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a review of the information collection requirements. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission published a 60-day Notice in the **Federal Register** in Docket No. IC17-15-000, (82 FR 46231, 10/04/2017) requesting public comments. FERC received no comments in response to the Notice and is indicating that in its submittals to the OMB.

DATES: Comments on the collections of information are due January 25, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments filed with OMB, identified by OMB Control Nos. 1902-0115 and 1902-0073, should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs: oira_submission@omb.gov. Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. The Desk Officer may also be reached via telephone at 202-395-0710. A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Commission, in Docket No. IC17-15-000 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, 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

¹ 18 CFR 385.2001-2005 (2017).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of Request: Three-year approval of the FERC-505 and FERC-512 information collection requirements 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 estimate of the burden 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.

Title: FERC-505, Small Hydropower Projects and Conduit Facilities including License/Relicense, Exemption, and Qualifying Conduit Facility Determination.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0115.

Abstract: The Hydropower Efficiency Act amended statutory provisions pertaining to preliminary permits and to projects that are exempt from certain licensing requirements under the Federal Power Act (FPA) in order to reduce cost and regulatory burden, and in turn, promote hydropower development. Specifically, the Hydropower Efficiency Act gave the Commission authority to extend a preliminary permit once for not more

than two additional years without requiring the permittee to apply for a successive preliminary permit. The Hydropower Efficiency Act also expanded the number of projects that may qualify for exemptions from certain licensing requirements under the FPA (*i.e.*, small conduit hydroelectric facilities or small hydroelectric power projects), and allowed other projects to qualify to operate without Commission oversight (*i.e.*, qualifying conduit hydropower facilities). While the Commission-approved revised regulations formally implement the Hydropower Efficiency Act, the Commission has complied with the Act since its enactment.

Type of Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

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

FERC-505 (SMALL HYDROPOWER PROJECTS AND CONDUIT FACILITIES INCLUDING LICENSE/RELICENSE, EXEMPTION, AND QUALIFYING CONDUIT FACILITY DETERMINATION)

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1) * (2) = (3)	Average burden and cost per response (4)	Total annual burden and total annual cost (3) * (4) = (5)	Cost per respondent (\$) (5) ÷ (1)
FERC-505	16	1	16	273 hrs.; \$20,884.50 ...	4,368 hrs.; \$334,152 ...	20,884.50

Title: FERC-512, Preliminary Permit.
OMB Control No.: 1902-0073.

Abstract: The information collected under the requirements of FERC-512, is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of the Federal Power Act (FPA) 16 U.S.C. The purpose of obtaining a preliminary permit is to maintain priority of the application for

a license for a hydropower facility while the applicant conducts surveys to prepare maps, plans, specifications and estimates; conducts engineering, economic and environmental feasibility studies; and made financial arrangements. The conditions under which the priority will be maintained are set forth in each permit.

Type of Respondent: Businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*¹ The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

FERC-512 (PRELIMINARY PERMIT)

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1) * (2) = (3)	Average burden & cost per response (4)	Total annual burden & total annual cost (3) * (4) = (5)	Cost per respondent (\$) (5) ÷ (1)
FERC-512	50	1	50	24 hrs.; \$1,836	1,200 hrs.; \$91,800	1,836

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;

¹ Burden is 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.

² Subject matter experts found that industry employment costs closely resemble FERC's wage

average wage figure. FERC's 2017 average annual salary plus benefits per FTE (full-time equivalent) is \$158,754 (or \$76.50 per hour).

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 18, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-27736 Filed 12-22-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC18-3-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-725F); Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC 725F (Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due February 26, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC18-3-000) 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, 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, telephone

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC 725F, Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0249.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-725F information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission requires the information collected by the FERC-725F to implement the statutory provisions of section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824o). On August 8, 2005, the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005, which is Title XII, Subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005), was enacted into law.¹ EPAct 2005 added a new section 215 to the FPA, which required a Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, which are subject to Commission review and approval. Once approved, the Reliability Standards may be enforced by the ERO subject to Commission oversight, or the Commission can independently enforce Reliability Standards.²

On February 3, 2006, the Commission issued Order No. 672, implementing section 215 of the FPA.³ Pursuant to Order No. 672, the Commission certified one organization, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), as the ERO. The Reliability Standards developed by the ERO and approved by the Commission apply to users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System as set forth in each Reliability Standard.

On November 19, 2007, NERC filed its petition for Commission approval of the Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination Reliability Standard, designated NUC-001-1. In Order No. 716, issued October 16, 2008, the Commission approved the standard while also directing certain revisions.⁴ Revised Reliability Standard, NUC-001-2, was filed with the Commission by NERC in August 2009 and subsequently approved by the Commission January 21, 2010.⁵ On

¹ Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58, Title XII, Subtitle A, 119 Stat. 594, 941 (2005), 16 U.S.C. 824o.

² 16 U.S.C. 824o(e)(3).

³ *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 672-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,212 (2006).

⁴ *Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination*, Order No. 716, 125 FERC ¶ 61,065, at P 189 & n.90 (2008), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 716-A, 126 FERC ¶ 61,122 (2009).

⁵ *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 130 FERC ¶ 61,051 (2010). When the revised

November 4, 2014, in Docket No. RD14-13, the Commission approved revised Reliability Standard NUC-001-3.⁶

The purpose of Reliability Standard NUC-001-3 is to require "coordination between nuclear plant generator operators and transmission entities for the purpose of ensuring nuclear plant safe operation and shutdown."⁷ The Nuclear Reliability Standard applies to nuclear plant generator operators (generally nuclear power plant owners and operators, including licensees) and "transmission entities," defined in the Reliability Standard as including a nuclear plant's suppliers of off-site power and related transmission and distribution services. To account for the variations in nuclear plant design and grid interconnection characteristics, the Reliability Standard defines transmission entities as "all entities that are responsible for providing services related to Nuclear Plant Interface Requirements (NPIRs)," and lists eleven types of functional entities (heretofore described as "transmission entities") that could provide services related to NPIRs.⁸

FERC-725F information collection requirements include establishing and maintaining interface agreements, including record retention requirements. These agreements are not filed with FERC, but with the appropriate entities as established by the Reliability Standard.

Type of Respondent: Nuclear operators, nuclear plants, transmission entities.

Estimate of Annual Burden:⁹ The Commission estimates the average annual burden and cost¹⁰ for this information collection as follows.

Reliability Standard was approved, the Commission did not go to OMB for approval. It is assumed that the changes made did not substantively affect the information collection and therefore a formal submission to OMB was not needed. The most recent OMB approval for FERC-725F was issued on 6/15/2015.

⁶ The Letter Order is posted at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/OpenNat.asp?fileID=13675845>.

⁷ See Reliability Standard NUC-001-2 at <http://www.nerc.com/files/NUC-001-3.pdf>.

⁸ The list of functional entities consists of transmission operators, transmission owners, transmission planners, transmission service providers, balancing authorities, reliability coordinators, planning authorities, distribution providers, load-serving entities, generator owners and generator operators.

⁹ 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. Refer to 5 CFR 1320.3 for additional information.

¹⁰ The wage and benefit figures are based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data (at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm) for May 2016 for Sector 22, Utilities. (The benefits figure is based on BLS data as of September 8, 2017, which