

Line 880, currently owned by Spire Missouri Inc. (Spire Missouri);<sup>1</sup> and (iii) minor modifications to Line 880 after it is acquired. This notice set February 27, 2017, as the deadline for motions to intervene.

On May 1, 2017, in Docket No. CP17-40-001, the Commission issued public notice of Spire's amendment to its application to propose a route alternative. Instead of acquiring and refurbishing Spire Missouri's Line 880, Spire's amended application proposes to construct a new six-mile, 24-inch diameter pipeline for the final segment of its proposal (referred to as the North County Extension). This notice set May 22, 2017, as the deadline for motions to intervene.

Multiple motions to intervene out of time were filed between the intervention deadlines and December 19, 2017. Here, because the deadline for filing a timely intervention passed before the Commission announced its new policy governing late interventions in *Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.*,<sup>2</sup> the late motions to intervene are granted.<sup>3</sup>

Dated: April 19, 2018.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-08671 Filed 4-24-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. PR17-60-001; PR17-60-002]

#### Atmos Pipeline-Texas; Notice of Technical Conference

Take notice that an informal technical conference concerning the above-captioned proceedings will be convened by phone on May 2, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. (EDT). The purpose of the teleconference will be to discuss comments filed in the proceeding.

All interested parties are invited to participate by phone. Please email Deirdra Archie at [deirdra.archie@ferc.gov](mailto:deirdra.archie@ferc.gov) or call (202) 502-6819 by Tuesday, May 1, 2018, to RSVP and to receive specific instructions on how to participate.

<sup>1</sup> Spire Missouri Inc. was formerly known as Laclede Gas Company.

<sup>2</sup> *Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., L.L.C.*, 162 FERC 61,167, at P 51 (2018).

<sup>3</sup> 18 CFR 385.214(d) (2017).

Dated: April 19, 2018.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-08613 Filed 4-24-18; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC18-9-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-725X); Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

**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 submitting its information collection FERC-725X (Mandatory Reliability Standards: Voltage and Reactive (VAR) Standards) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for 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 previously issued a Notice in the **Federal Register** requesting public comments. The Commission received no comments on the FERC-725X and is making this notation in its submittal to OMB.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by May 25, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments filed with OMB, identified by the OMB Control No. 1902-0278, should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs: [oira\\_submission@omb.gov](mailto:oira_submission@omb.gov). Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. The Desk Officer may also be reached via telephone at 202-395-8528.

A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Commission, in Docket No. IC18-9-000, 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](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), by telephone at (202) 502-8663, and by fax at (202) 273-0873.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** FERC-725X, Mandatory Reliability Standards: Voltage and Reactive (VAR) Standards.

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-0278.

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

**Abstract:** Pursuant to Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), NERC established the Voltage and Reactive (VAR) group of Reliability Standards, which consists of two continent-wide Reliability Standards, VAR-001-4 and VAR-002-3.<sup>1</sup> These two standards were designed to maintain voltage stability on the Bulk-Power System, protect transmission, generation, distribution, and customer equipment, and support the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. Voltage stability is the ability of a power system to maintain acceptable voltage levels throughout the system under normal operating conditions and following a disturbance. Failure to maintain acceptable voltage levels (*i.e.*, voltage levels become too high or too low) may cause violations of System Operating Limits (SOLs) and Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits (IROLs), resulting in damage to Bulk-Power System equipment, and thereby threaten the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System.

#### Reliability Standard VAR-001-4<sup>2</sup>

Reliability Standard VAR-001-4 contains the following requirements:

- Specify a system-wide voltage schedule (which is either a range or a target value with an associated tolerance band) as part of its plan to operate within SOLs and IROLs, and to provide the voltage schedule to its Reliability Coordinator and adjacent Transmission Operators upon request (Requirement R1);

<sup>1</sup> FERC approved these standards in the Order in Docket No. RD14-11-000 (issued on 8/1/2014).

<sup>2</sup> Applies to generation operators only.

- Schedule sufficient reactive resources to regulate voltage levels (Requirement R2);
- Operate or direct the operation of devices to regulate transmission voltage and reactive flows (Requirement R3);
- Develop a set of criteria to exempt generators from certain requirements under Reliability Standard VAR-002-3 related to voltage or Reactive Power schedules, automatic voltage regulations, and notification (Requirement R4);
- Specify a voltage or Reactive Power schedule (which is either a range or a target value with an associated tolerance band) for generators at either the high or low voltage side of the generator step-up transformer, provide the schedule to the associated Generator Operator, direct the Generator Operator to comply with that schedule in automatic voltage control mode, provide the Generator Operator the notification requirements for deviating from the schedule, and, if requested, provide the Generator Operator the criteria used to develop the schedule (Requirement R5); and
- Communicate step-up transformer tap changes, the time frame for

completion, and the justification for these changes to Generator Owners (Requirement R6).

**Reliability Standard VAR-002-3<sup>3</sup>**

Reliability Standard VAR-002-3 contains the following requirements:

- Operate each of its generators connected to the interconnected transmission system in automatic voltage control mode or in a different control mode as instructed by the Transmission Operator, unless the Generator Operator (1) is exempted pursuant to the criteria developed under VAR-001-4, Requirement R4, or (2) makes certain notifications to the Transmission Operator specifying the reasons it cannot so operate (Requirement R1);
- Maintain the Transmission Operator's generator voltage or Reactive Power schedule, unless the Generator Operator (1) is exempted pursuant to the criteria developed under VAR-001-4, Requirement R4, or (2) complies with the notification requirements for deviations as established by the Transmission Owner pursuant to Requirement R5 in VAR-001-4 (Requirement R2);

- Notify the Transmission Operator of a change in status of its voltage controlling device within 30 minutes, unless the status is restored within that time period (Requirement R3);

- Notify the Transmission Operator of a change in reactive capability due to factors other than those described in VAR-002-3, Requirement R3 within 30 minutes unless the capability has been restored during that time period (Requirement R4).

- Provide information on its step-up transformers and auxiliary transformers within 30 days of a request from the Transmission Operator or Transmission Planner (Requirement R5); and

- Comply with the Transmission Operator's step-up transformer tap change directives unless compliance would violate safety, an equipment rating, or applicable laws, rules or regulations (Requirement R6).

*Type of Respondents:* Generator operators and transmission operators.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>4</sup> The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

**FERC-725X, MANDATORY RELIABILITY STANDARDS: VOLTAGE AND REACTIVE (VAR) STANDARDS**

	Number of respondents <sup>5</sup>	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)
VAR-001-4 (Requirement R1-R6).	181 (TOP) .....	1	181	160 hrs.; \$10,899.20 .....	28,960 hrs.; \$1,972,755 .....	\$10,899.20
VAR-002-3 (Requirement R1).	944 (GOP) .....	1	944	80 hrs.; 5,449.60 .....	75,520 hrs.; \$5,144,422 .....	5,449.60
VAR-002-3 (Requirement R2-R6).	944 (GOP) .....	1	944	120 hrs.; \$8,174.40 .....	113,280 hrs.; \$7,716,634 .....	8,174.40
<b>Total</b> .....	.....	.....	2,069	.....	217,760 hrs.; \$14,833,811 .....	.....

*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; 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: April 19, 2018.  
**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*  
 [FR Doc. 2018-08670 Filed 4-24-18; 8:45 am]  
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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. PL18-1-000]

**Certification of New Interstate Natural Gas Facilities**

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Inquiry.

**SUMMARY:** In this Notice of Inquiry, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) seeks information and stakeholder perspectives to help the

<sup>3</sup> Applies to transmission operators only.  
<sup>4</sup> 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. For further

explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, reference 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.  
<sup>5</sup> TOP = transmission operator; GOP = generator operators.

<sup>6</sup> The estimate for hourly cost is \$68.12/hour. This figure is the average salary plus benefits for an electrical engineer (Occupation Code: 17-2071) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2\\_22.htm](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm).