

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. IC18-15-000]

COMMISSION INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES
(FERC Form No. 587);
COMMENT REQUEST; EXTENSION

(September 18, 2018)

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 Form No. 587 (Land Description (Public Land States/Non-Public Land States [Rectangular or Non-Rectangular Survey System Lands in Public Land States])) and submitting the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review.

Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. On July 3, 2018, the Commission published a Notice in the Federal Register in Docket No. IC18-15-000 requesting public comments. The Commission did not receive any comments.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due **[Insert Date 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register]**.

ADDRESSES: Comments filed with OMB, identified by OMB Control No. 1902-0145, should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs:

oir_submission@omb.gov. Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer.

A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Commission, in Docket No. IC18-15-000, 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.

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 e-mail 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 e-mail at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC Form No. 587, Land Description (Public Land States/Non-Public Land States [Rectangular or Non-Rectangular Survey System Lands in Public Land States])

OMB Control No.: 1902-0145

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC Form No. 587 information collection reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission requires the FERC Form No. 587 information collection to satisfy the requirements of section 24 of the Federal Power Act (FPA). The Federal Power Act grants the Commission authority to issue licenses for the development and improvement of navigation and for the development, transmission, and utilization of power across, along, from or in any of the streams or other bodies of water over which Congress has jurisdiction.¹ The Electric Consumers Protection Act (ECPA) amends the FPA to allow the Commission the responsibility of issuing licenses for nonfederal hydroelectric plants.²

Section 24 of the FPA requires that applicants proposing hydropower projects on (or changes to existing projects located within) lands owned by the United States to provide a description of the applicable U.S. land. Additionally, the FPA requires the notification of the Commission and Secretary of the Interior of the hydropower proposal. FERC Form No. 587 consolidates the information required and identifies hydropower project boundary maps associated with the applicable U.S. land.

The information on FERC Form No. 587 is used to identify those project boundary maps associated with federal lands. There are two versions of the form to

¹ 16 U.S.C. Section 797d (2010).

² Pub. L. 99-495, 100 Stat. 1243 (1996).

account for the two different ways land is surveyed in the United States. Completed forms must be included in applications for preliminary permits with a copy sent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of the Interior (DOI).

Moreover, this information ensures that U.S. lands can be reserved as hydropower sites and withdrawn from other uses.

The Commission is also making the following changes to the FERC Form No. 587 instructions.³ FERC is not changing the reporting requirements of the information collection:

Paragraph 3

-Revise Paragraph 3 as follows:

From	To
<p>Microfilm copies of the project boundary maps must be submitted with the land description forms as directed by FERC. Each map must be reproduced on silver or gelatin 35 mm microfilm mounted on type D (3-1/4" X 7-3/8") aperture cards. The project number followed by a hyphen and sheet number or letter must be typed on the front of each card in the upper right corner.</p>	<p>Electronic file format copies of the project boundary map(s), also referred to as Exhibit G drawing(s), must be submitted with the land description form(s) as directed by FERC.</p>

Paragraph 4

-Revise Paragraph 4 as follows:

From	To
<p>Mail a copy of the completed land description forms and aperture cards to:</p>	<p>Mail a copy of the completed land description form(s) and the electronic file format drawing(s) to:</p>

³ Any references to “microfilm” and “aperture cards” within 18 CFR Part 4.39 were removed by the Final Rule in RM14-20-000 (issued 7/17/2014, published in the Federal Register at 79 FR 42973 on 7/24/2014).

<p>Secretary Routing Code PJ-12 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street NE Washington, DC 20426</p> <p>Another copy of the form FERC-587 must be filed with the Bureau of Land Management state office(s) involved using the format below. Go to the following internet address to get mailing address for a particular State Office (http://www.blm.gov/nhp/directory/index.htm).</p> <p>State Director Bureau of Land Management City, State Zip ATTN: FERC Withdrawal Recordation</p>	<p>Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ATTN: OEP/DHAC 888 First Street NE Washington, DC 20426</p> <p>Another copy of the form FERC-587 and electronic file format drawings must be filed with the Bureau of Land Management state office(s) involved using the format below. Go to the following internet address to get mailing address for a particular State Office (https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/land-tenure).</p> <p>State Director Bureau of Land Management City, State Zip ATTN: FERC Withdrawal Recordation</p>
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Paragraph 5

-Revise Paragraph 5 as follows:

From	To
<p>Keep the land description forms and project boundary drawings up-to-date. If the project boundary changes, revised land description forms and drawings must be provided to the Commission immediately. The revised land description forms must be fully completed so as to supersede (not supplement) earlier forms. Mail updates in accordance with instruction 4.</p> <p>If there are any questions, please contact the FERC at (202) 502-8872.</p>	<p>Keep the land description forms and project boundary drawings up-to-date. If the project boundary changes, revised land description forms and drawings must be provided to the Commission immediately. The revised land description forms must be fully completed so as to supersede (not supplement) earlier forms. Mail updates in accordance with instruction 4.</p> <p>If there are any questions, please contact the FERC at 844-434-0053 or FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.</p>

Access to the Revised Materials: There is one attachment (Attachment A) that contains a version of FERC Form No. 587 that incorporates all of the aforementioned changes within this Notice. Attachment A will be attached to this Notice within Docket No. IC18-15-000, but will not be published in the Federal Register. Interested parties can see this attachment electronically as part of this Notice in FERC’s eLibrary (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>) by searching for Docket No. IC18-15-000.

Type of Respondents: Applicants proposing hydropower projects on (or changes to existing projects located within) lands owned by the United States.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*⁴ The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden and cost⁵ for the information collection as follows.

FERC Form No. 587: Land Description (Public Land States/Non-Public Land States [Rectangular or Non-Rectangular Survey System Lands in Public Land States])						
	Number of Respondents (1)	Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)	Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden Hours & Cost (\$) Per Response (4)	Total Annual Burden Hours & Cost (\$) (3)*(4)=(5)	Annual Cost per Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)

⁴ “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 Title 5 CFR 1320.3.

⁵ The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response * \$79 per Hour = Average Cost per Response. The hourly cost figure of \$79 is the Fiscal Year 2018 average FERC hourly cost for wages plus benefits. The staff assumes for FERC-587 that respondents earn at a similar rate to the Commission.

Hydropower Project Applicants	137	1	137	1 hr.; \$79	137 hrs.; \$10,823	\$79
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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.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

ATTACHMENT

The attachment (proposed revision to the instructions on FERC Form No. 587) will not be published in the Federal Register. The attachment is labeled as “FERC Form No. 587 – Attachment A.”

The attachment will be available in the Commission’s eLibrary