

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. IC19-15-000]

COMMISSION INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES (FERC-730);
COMMENT REQUEST; EXTENSION

(February 15, 2019)

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-730 (Report of Transmission Investment Activity).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due [**insert date 60 days after publication in the Federal Register**].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC19-15-000) 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: 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-730, Report of Transmission Investment Activity

OMB Control No.: 1902-0239

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-730 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission uses the FERC-730 information collection to determine the effectiveness of its rules and to provide it with an accurate assessment of the state of transmission investment by public utilities. This annual report includes projections, information that details the level and status of transmission investment, and the reason for delay (if any). The report must conform to the format prescribed in Order No. 679, Appendix A¹. Filers are strongly encouraged to submit the FERC-730 electronically via eFiling. FERC-730 is filed by public utilities that have been granted incentive rate treatment for specific electric transmission projects. Actual and planned transmission investments, and related project data for the most recent calendar year and the subsequent

¹ Issued on 12/22/2006 in Docket No. RM06-4-001 (Promoting Transmission Investment through Pricing Reform)

five years, must be reported annually beginning with the calendar year that the Commission granted the incentive rates.

Congress enacted section 1241 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005), adding section 219 to the Federal Power Act (FPA), to promote the operation, maintenance and enhancement of electric transmission infrastructure.² Congress aimed to benefit consumers by ensuring reliability and/or reducing the cost of delivered power through reducing transmission congestion. In response to EPAAct 2005, the Commission amended its regulations to allow for these incentive-based, (including performance-based), rate treatments.

The Commission amended its regulations in 18 CFR 35.35 to identify the incentive ratemaking treatments allowed under FPA section 219. Incentives are required to be tailored to the type of transmission investments being made, and each applicant must demonstrate that its proposal meets the requirements of FPA section 219.

Type of Respondents: Public utilities that have been granted incentive based rate treatment for specific transmission projects under provisions of 18 CFR 35.35

Estimate of Annual Burden³: The Commission estimates the total Public Reporting Burden and cost for this information collection as follows:

FERC-730: Report of Transmission Investment Activity						
	Number of	Number of Responses Per	Total Number	Average Burden Hours & Average Cost per	Total Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost	Cost per

² Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, 119 Stat. 594, 315 and 1283 (2005).

³ 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, refer to Title 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

	Respondents (1)	Respondent (2)	of Responses (1) x (2) = (3)	Response (\$) ⁴ (4)	((3) x (4) = (5)	Respondent (\$ (5) ÷ (1) = (6)
FERC-730	63	1	63	30 hrs.; \$2,370	1,890 hrs.; \$149,310	\$2,370

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.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

⁴ The estimates for cost per response are derived using the formula: Average Burden Hours per Response * 79.00 per hour = Average Cost per Response. The hourly cost figure comes from the FERC average salary plus benefits of \$164,820 per year (or \$79.00/hour). These estimates were updated in May 2018. This figure is being used because the staff thinks industry is similarly situated in terms of average hourly cost.