

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. RD18-7-000]

COMMISSION INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES (FERC-725R);
COMMENT REQUEST; EXTENSION

(March 5, 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-725R (Mandatory Reliability Standards: BAL Reliability Standards) 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 October 9, 2018, the Commission published a Notice in the Federal Register in Docket No. RD18-7-000 requesting public comments. The Commission received no 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. 1902-0268, 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. RD18-7-000, 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-725R, Mandatory Reliability Standards: BAL Reliability Standards

OMB Control No.: 1902-0268

Type of Request: Revision to FERC-725R information collection requirements, as discussed in Docket No. RD18-7-000.

Abstract: On August 17, 2018, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) filed a petition seeking approval of proposed Reliability Standard BAL-002-3 (Disturbance Control Standard—Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event) and the retirement of currently-effective Reliability Standard BAL-002-2. NERC submitted proposed Reliability Standard BAL-002-3 in response to the Commission’s directive in Order No. 835 to develop modifications to Reliability Standard BAL-002-2, Requirement R1 to require balancing authorities or reserve sharing groups: (1) to notify the reliability coordinator of the conditions set forth in Requirement R1, Part 1.3.1 preventing it from complying with the 15-minute ACE recovery period; and (2) to provide the reliability coordinator with its ACE recovery plan, including a target recovery time.¹ The NERC petition states “the proposed modifications to Reliability Standard BAL-002-3 also intend to clarify that communication with the reliability coordinator (RC) should proceed in accordance with Energy Emergency Alert procedures within the EOP Reliability Standards.² This communication is performed under the currently-effective Reliability Standard BAL-002-2 (as part of the operating procedures and processes). The communications (and related burden) are already covered under FERC-725R, and the additional information is de minimis. Therefore the

¹ Disturbance Control Standard—Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event Reliability Standard, Order No. 835, 158 FERC ¶ 61,030, at P 37 (2017).

² NERC Petition at 3.

Commission is not modifying the burden estimate for each response and is submitting this to OMB as a non-material or non-substantive change to a currently approved collection.

The Office of Electric Reliability approved the NERC proposal in a Delegated Order on September 25, 2018.

Type of Respondents: Balancing authorities and reserve sharing groups

Estimate of Annual Burden³: According to the NERC Compliance Registry as of 8/24/2018, there are 99 balancing authorities in the United States. The Commission bases individual burden estimates on the time needed for balancing authorities to develop tools needed to facilitate reporting that are required in the Reliability Standard. The communications (and related burden) are already covered under FERC-725R, so the Commission is not modifying the burden estimate for each response. However, to reflect normal fluctuations in industry, we are adjusting the number of respondents (to 99, rather than 105) for Reliability Standard BAL-002-3, as shown below.

FERC-725R, Estimate for Reliability Standard BAL-002-3, as approved in Docket No. RD18-7 ^{4,5}						
	Number of	Annual	Total	Average	Total Annual	Cost per

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 information collection burden, refer to 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

⁴ Reliability Standard BAL-002-3 applies to balancing authorities and reserve sharing groups. However, the burden associated with the balancing authorities complying with Requirements R1 and R3 is not included in this table because that burden doesn't change and the Commission already accounted for it under Commission-approved Reliability Standard BAL-002-1.

Other components of FERC-725R which are not affected by Docket No. RD18-7 are not addressed in the table.

⁵ The estimated hourly cost (wages plus benefits) is based on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) information (available at http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm and, for

	Respondents (1)	Number of Responses per Respondent (2)	Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Burden Hours & Cost Per Response (\$) (4)	Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (\$) (rounded) (3)*(4)=(5)	Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)
BA/RSG: ⁶ Develop and Maintain annually, Operating Process and Operating Plans	99	1	99	8 ⁷ hrs.; \$842.32	792 hrs.; \$83,390	\$842.32
BA/RSG: Record Retention	99	1	99	4 hrs.; \$158.72	396 hrs.; \$15,713	\$158.72
TOTAL			198		1,188 hrs.; \$99,103	

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

benefits, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>).

The hourly cost (wages plus benefits) for developing and maintaining operating process and plans is \$105.29 and is an average for an electrical engineer (Occupation code 17-2071, \$66.90/hour) and Legal (Occupation code 23-0000, \$143.68).

The hourly cost (wages plus benefits) for record retention is \$39.68 for information and record clerks (Occupation code 43-4199).

⁶ BA=Balancing Authority; RSG=Reserve Sharing Group.

⁷ This figure of 8 hours/response is an average of the hourly burden per response for Years 1-3. Year 1 burden: 12 hours per response; Years 2-3, each: 6 hours/response. The average annual burden for Years 1-3 is 8 hours/response (or [12 hours + 6 hours + 6 hours] ÷ 3).

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.