

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. IC19-30-000]

COMMISSION INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES
(FERC-920 – ELECTRIC QUARTERLY REPORTS);
COMMENT REQUEST; EXTENSION

(June 27, 2019)

x

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 (PRA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-920 [Electric Quarterly Reports (EQR)].

DATES: Comments on the collections of information are due **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC19-30-000) 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.

Please reference the specific collection number and/or title in your comments.

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-920 [Electric Quarterly Reports (EQR)]

OMB Control No.: 1902-0255

Type of Respondent: Public utilities and non-public utilities with more than a *de minimis* market presence.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-920 information collection with no changes to the current reporting requirements.¹

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 estimates 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

¹ This does not include any changes to the estimates from the Notice Seeking Comments on proposed revisions and clarifications to the EQR reporting requirements, currently pending in Docket No. RM01-8-000, *et al.*

collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Abstract: The Commission originally set forth the EQR filing requirements in Order No. 2001 (Docket No. RM01-8-000, issued April 25, 2002, at

http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/intermediate.asp?link_file=yes&doclist=2270047).

Order No. 2001 required public utilities to electronically file EQRs summarizing transaction information for short-term and long-term cost-based sales and market-based rate sales and the contractual terms and conditions in their agreements for all jurisdictional services.² The Commission established the EQR reporting requirements to help ensure the collection of information needed to perform its regulatory functions over transmission and sales, while making data more useful to the public and allowing public utilities to better fulfill their responsibility under FPA section 205(c) to have rates on file in a convenient form and place. As noted in Order No. 2001, the EQR data is designed to “provide greater price transparency, promote competition, enhance confidence in the fairness of the markets, and provide a better means to detect and discourage discriminatory practices.”

² *Revised Public Utility Filing Requirements*, Order No. 2001, 67 FR 31043 (May 8, 2002), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,127, *reh’g denied*, Order No. 2001-A, 100 FERC ¶ 61,074, *reh’g denied*, Order No. 2001-B, 100 FERC ¶ 61,342, *order directing filing*, Order No. 2001-C, 101 FERC ¶ 61,314 (2002), *order directing filing*, Order No. 2001-D, 102 FERC ¶ 61,334, *order refining filing requirements*, Order No. 2001-E, 105 FERC ¶ 61,352 (2003), *order on clarification*, Order No. 2001-F, 106 FERC ¶ 61,060 (2004), *order revising filing requirements*, Order No. 2001-G, 72 FR 56735 (Oct. 4, 2007), 120 FERC ¶ 61,270, *order on reh’g and clarification*, Order No. 2001-H, 73 FR 1876 (Jan. 10, 2008), 121 FERC ¶ 61,289 (2007), *order revising filing requirements*, Order No. 2001-I, 73 FR 65526 (Nov. 4, 2008), 125 FERC ¶ 61,103 (2008).

Since issuing Order No. 2001, the Commission has provided guidance and refined the reporting requirements, as necessary, to reflect changes in the Commission's rules and regulations.³ The Commission also adopted an Electric Quarterly Report Data Dictionary, which provides in one document the definitions of certain terms and values used in filing EQR data.⁴

To increase transparency broadly across all wholesale markets subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, the Commission issued Order No. 768 in 2012.⁵ Order No. 768 required market participants that are excluded from the Commission's jurisdiction under the Federal Power Act section 205 (non-public utilities) and have more than a *de minimis* market presence to file EQRs with the Commission. In addition, Order No. 768 revised the EQR filing requirements to build upon the Commission's prior improvements to the reporting requirements and further enhance the goals of providing greater price transparency, promoting competition, instilling confidence in the fairness of the markets, and providing a better means to detect and discourage anti-competitive, discriminatory, and manipulative practices.

EQR information allows the public to assess supply and demand fundamentals and to price interstate wholesale market transactions. This, in turn, results in greater market

³ See, e.g., *Revised Public Utility Filing Requirements for Electric Quarterly Reports*, 124 FERC ¶ 61,244 (2008) (providing guidance on the filing of information on transmission capacity reassignments in EQRs); *Notice of Electric Quarterly Reports Technical Conference*, 73 FR 2477 (Jan. 15, 2008) (announcing a technical conference to discuss changes associated with the EQR Data Dictionary).

⁴ Order No. 2001-G, 120 FERC ¶ 61,270 (2007).

⁵ Order No. 768, 77 Fed. Reg. 61896 (Oct. 11, 2012), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,336 (2012).

confidence, lower transaction costs, and ultimately supports competitive markets. In addition, the data filed in the EQR strengthens the Commission's ability to exercise its wholesale electric rate and electric power transmission oversight and enforcement responsibilities in accordance with the Federal Power Act. Without this information, the Commission would lack some of the data it needs to examine and approve or modify electric rates.

Type of Respondent: Public utilities, and non-public utilities with more than a *de minimis* market presence.

Estimate of Annual Burden and Cost⁶: The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

FERC-920: Electric Quarterly Report (EQR)				
Number of Respondents (1)	Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)	Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden Hrs. & Cost Per Response (4)	Total Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (3)*(4)=(5)
2,595	4	10,380	18.1 hrs.; \$1,448	187,878 hrs.; \$15,030,240

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

⁶ The cost is based on FERC's 2019 Commission-wide average salary cost (salary plus benefits) of \$80.00/hour. The Commission staff believes the FERC FTE (full-time equivalent) average cost for wages plus benefits is representative of the corresponding cost for the industry respondents.