

Supporting Statement  
**FERC Form No. 561 (Annual Report of Interlocking Directorates)**  
(Three-year extension requested)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) requests the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approve the information collection requirement in the FERC Form No. 561 (OMB Control No. 1902-0099), and approve its approval of this information collection for three years. FERC Form No. 561 is an existing collection whose filing requirements are contained in 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 46.

**1. CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAKE THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION NECESSARY**

The Federal Power Act (FPA) mandates federal oversight and approval of certain electric corporate activities and implements related information filing requirements. FERC Form No. 561 ensures that FPA-mandated oversight can occur. Additionally, this information collection ensures that neither public nor private interests are adversely affected by the electric activities in the FPA provisions.

**2. HOW, BY WHOM, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE THE INFORMATION IS TO BE USED AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT COLLECTING THE INFORMATION**

The information the Commission collects with the FERC Form No. 561 (Annual Report of Interlocking Positions) responds to the FPA requirements for annual reporting of similar types of positions public utility officers and directors hold with financial institution, insurance companies, utility equipment and fuel providers, and with any of an electric utility's 20 largest purchasers of electric energy (i.e. the 20 entities with high expenditures of electricity). The FPA specifically defines most of the information elements in the Form 561 including the information that must be filed, the required filers, the directive to make the information available to the public, and the filing deadline.

The Commission uses the information collected by the FERC Form No. 561 to implement the FPA requirement that those who are authorized to hold interlocked directorates annually disclose all the interlocked positions held within the prior year. The

FERC Form No. 561 data identifies persons holding interlocking positions between public utilities and other entities, allows the Commission to review these interlocking positions, and allows identification of possible conflicts of interest.

The Commission can use its enforcement authority when violations and omissions of FPA requirements occur.

**3. DESCRIBE ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE USE OF IMPROVED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE THE BURDEN AND TECHNICAL OR LEGAL OBSTACLES TO REDUCING BURDEN**

FERC continually considers the use of improved information technology to reduce burden in the filing requirements for submission of information concerning headwater benefits. FERC-561 may be eFiled as shown at <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing.pdf> .

**4. DESCRIBE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATION AND SHOW SPECIFICALLY WHY ANY SIMILAR INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE CANNOT BE USED OR MODIFIED FOR USE FOR THE PURPOSE(S) DESCRIBED IN INSTRUCTION NO. 2**

In an effort to alleviate duplication, filing requirements are periodically reviewed as OMB review dates arise, or as the Commission may deem necessary in carrying out its regulatory responsibilities. There is no duplication of information.

**5. METHODS USED TO MINIMIZE THE BURDEN IN COLLECTION OF INFORMATION INVOLVING SMALL ENTITIES**

The data collection imposes the least possible burden on small entities while collecting information necessary to the Commission to fulfill statutory requirements.

**6. CONSEQUENCE TO FEDERAL PROGRAM IF COLLECTION WERE CONDUCTED LESS FREQUENTLY**

Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) Section 211 mandates annual submission of the data in the FERC Form No. 561. FERC cannot change

congressionally-mandated filing dates. If the FERC Form No. 561 were collected less frequently, the Commission would be unable to perform its mandated oversight and review responsibilities as effectively.

**7. EXPLAIN ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE INFORMATION COLLECTION**

There are no special circumstances related to FERC Form 561.

**8. DESCRIBE EFFORTS TO CONSULT OUTSIDE THE AGENCY: SUMMARIZE PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE AGENCY'S RESPONSE**

In accordance with OMB requirements, the Commission published a 60-day notice<sup>1</sup> and a 30-day notice<sup>2</sup> to the public regarding this information collection on 5/13/2020 and 07/21/2020 respectively. Within the public notices, the Commission noted that it would be requesting a three-year extension of the public reporting burden. The Commission received no comments from the public regarding this information collection.

**9. EXPLAIN ANY PAYMENT OR GIFTS TO RESPONDENTS**

The Commission does not make payments or provide gifts for respondents related to FERC-561.

**10. DESCRIBE ANY ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY PROVIDED TO RESPONDENTS**

The information submitted to the Commission is public, therefore, the information is not considered confidential. Specific requests for confidential treatment will be considered pursuant to 18 C.F.R. Section 388.112.

**11. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY QUESTIONS OF A SENSITIVE NATURE, SUCH AS SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDES, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE COMMONLY CONSIDERED PRIVATE**

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<sup>1</sup> 85 FR 28623

<sup>2</sup> 85 FR 44064

This collection does not contain any questions of a sensitive nature.

**12. ESTIMATED BURDEN OF COLLECTION OF INFORMATION**

The estimated burden for each collection follows:

<b>FERC Form No. 561 (Annual Report of Interlocking Positions)</b>						
	<b>Number of Respondents (1)</b>	<b>Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)</b>	<b>Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)</b>	<b>Average Burden/Cost Per Response<sup>3</sup> (4)</b>	<b>Total Annual Burden Hours (Total Annual Cost)<sup>4</sup> (3)*(4)=(5)</b>	<b>Cost per Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)</b>
FERC Form No. 561	2,700	1	2,700	0.25 hr.; \$20.00	675.00 hr.; \$54,000	\$20.00

Neither the reporting requirements nor the hours per response (0.25 hrs.) have changed since the last renewal.

**13. ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST BURDEN TO RESPONDENTS**

There is no capital or start-up cost associated with FERC Form No. 561. All costs are related to burden hours and are described further in #12 and 15.

**14. ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The following table contains the annualized effort and cost for FERC Form No. 561.

<b>FERC Form No. 561</b>	<b>Number of Employees (FTEs)</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Federal Cost</b>
Analysis and Processing of filings <sup>3</sup>	1	\$167,091

Paperwork Reduction Act Administrative Cost <sup>4</sup>		\$4,832
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$171,923</b>

**15. REASONS FOR CHANGES IN BURDEN INCLUDING THE NEED FOR ANY INCREASE**

There are no changes in the information collection requirements and no program changes to the figures.

FERC Form No. 561	Total Request	Previously Approved	Change due to Adjustment in Estimate	Change Due to Agency Discretion
Annual Number of Responses	2,700	2,700	0	0
Annual Time Burden (Hr)	675	675	0	0
Annual Cost Burden (\$)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**16. TIME SCHEDULE FOR PUBLICATION OF DATA**

There is no plan for publication of this information collection.

**17. DISPLAY OF EXPIRATION DATE**

The PRA information (including expiration date and OMB Control No.) is available on [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)

<sup>3</sup> The FERC 2019 average salary plus benefits for one FERC full-time equivalent (FTE) is \$167,091/year (or \$80.00/hour)

<sup>4</sup> The PRA Administrative Cost is the average annual FERC cost associated with preparing, issuing, and submitting materials necessary to comply with the PRA for rulemakings, orders, or any other vehicle used to create, modify, extend, or discontinue an information collection. It also includes the cost of publishing the necessary notices in the Federal Register.

**18. EXCEPTIONS TO THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

There are no exceptions