

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. RD20-3-000]

COMMISSION INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES FERC-725N(1)
COMMENT REQUEST; EXTENSION

(April 10, 2020)

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 proposed information collection FERC-725N(1)¹ (Mandatory Reliability TPL Standards: TPL-007-4, (Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events)).

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

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. RD20-3-000) by either of the following methods:

- eFiling at Commission's Web Site:

<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>

¹This temporary (placeholder) information collection number is being used for Docket No. RD20-3-000 because FERC-725N is currently pending review at OMB on an unrelated matter. Only one item per OMB Control No. can be pending review at OMB at the same time.

- Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, at Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

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).

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-725N(1), Mandatory Reliability Standards TPL-007-4, Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events.

OMB Control No.: 1902-TBD

Type of Request: Approval of FERC-725N(1) which is a temporary placeholder for FERC-725N which is currently at OMB for an unrelated activity. There are no changes to the current reporting and recordkeeping requirements to FERC-725N.

Abstract: The proposed Reliability Standard TPL-007-4 requires owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System to conduct initial and on-going vulnerability assessments of the potential impact of defined geomagnetic disturbance events on Bulk- Power System

equipment and the Bulk-Power System as a whole. Specifically, the Reliability Standard requires entities to develop corrective action plans for vulnerabilities identified through supplemental geomagnetic disturbance vulnerability assessments and requires entities to seek approval from the Electric Reliability Organization of any extensions of time for the completion of corrective action plan items.

On August 8, 2005, Congress enacted into law the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005, which is Title XII, Subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAcT 2005).² EPAcT 2005 added a new section 215 to the FPA, which required a Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, which are subject to Commission review and approval. Once approved, the Reliability Standards may be enforced by the ERO subject to Commission oversight, or the Commission can independently enforce Reliability Standards.³

On February 3, 2006, the Commission issued Order No. 672, implementing section 215 of the FPA.⁴ Pursuant to Order No. 672, the Commission certified one organization, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), as the ERO.⁵

² Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, Title XII, Subtitle A, 119 Stat. 594, 941 (codified at 16 U.S.C. 824o).

³ 16 U.S.C. 824o(e)(3).

⁴ *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 672-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,212 (2006).

⁵ *North American Electric Reliability Corp.*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062, *order on reh'g and compliance*, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), *order on compliance*, 118 FERC ¶ 61,190, *order on reh'g*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2007), *aff'd sub nom. Alcoa Inc. v. FERC*, 564 F.3d 1342 (D.C. Cir. 2009).

The Reliability Standards developed by the ERO and approved by the Commission apply to users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System as set forth in each Reliability Standard.

On February 7, 2020, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation filed a petition seeking approval of proposed Reliability Standard TPL-007-4 (Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events).

NERC's filed petition was noticed on February 11, 2020, with interventions, comments and protests due on or before March 9, 2020. No interventions or comments were received.

The DLO was issued on March 19, 2020. The standard goes in effect at NERC on October 1, 2020.

Type of Respondents: Generator Owner, Planning Coordinator, Distribution Provider and Transmission Owners.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*⁶ Our estimates are based on the NERC Compliance Registry Summary of Entities as of January 31, 2020.

The individual burden estimates include the time needed to gather data, run studies, and analyze study results. These are consistent with estimates for similar tasks in

⁶ 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. See 5 CFR 1320 for additional information on the definition of information collection burden.

other Commission-approved standards. Estimates for the additional average annual burden and cost⁷ as proposed in Docket No. RD20-3-000 follow:

FERC-725N(1), in Docket No. RD20-3-000						
	Annual Number¹ 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 & Cost (\$) (rounded) (3)*(4)=(5)	Cost per Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)
GO ⁸	969	1	969	40 hours; \$3,200	38,760 hours; \$3,100,800	\$3,200
PC ⁹	71	1	71	40 hours; \$3,200	2,840 hours; \$227,200	\$3,200
DP ¹⁰	318	1	318	40 hours & \$3,200	12,720 hours; \$1,017,600	\$3,200
TO ¹¹	321	1	321	40 hours & \$3,200	12,840 hours; \$1,027,200	\$3,200
TOTAL			1,679		67,160 hours; \$5,372,800	

⁷Commission staff estimates that the industry’s skill set and cost (for wages and benefits) for FERC-725N(1) are approximately the same as the Commission’s average cost. The FERC 2019 average salary plus benefits for one FERC full-time equivalent (FTE) is \$167,091/year (or \$80.00/hour).

⁸ Generator Owner

⁹ Planning Coordinator

¹⁰ Distribution Provider

¹¹ Transmission Owner

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.