

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. IC21-10-000]

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

(April 20, 2021)

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 a renewal of currently approved information collection FERC 725F (Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination), which will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due **[Insert Date 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register]**.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on FERC-725F to OMB through www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. Please identify the OMB Control Number (1902-0249) in the subject line of your comments. Comments should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.

Please submit copies of your comments to the Commission. You may submit copies of your comments (identified by Docket No. IC21-10-000) by one of the following methods:

Electronic filing through <http://www.ferc.gov>, is preferred.

- Electronic Filing: Documents must be filed in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format.
- For those unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery.
 - Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only: Addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.
 - Hand (including courier) delivery: Deliver to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

Instructions: OMB submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Using the search function under the “Currently Under Review” field, select Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; click “submit,” and select “comment” to the right of the subject collection.

FERC submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov>. 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 <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>.

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 725F, Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface

Coordination

OMB Control No.: 1902-0249

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-725F information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission requires the information collected by FERC-725F to implement the statutory provisions of section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 USC 824o). On August 8, 2005, the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005, which is Title XII, Subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005), was enacted into law.¹ EPAAct 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.²

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

¹ Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, Title XII, Subtitle A, 119 Stat. 594, 941 (2005), 16 U.S.C. 824o.

² 16 U.S.C. 824o(e)(3).

³ *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).

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 November 19, 2007, NERC filed its petition for Commission approval of the Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination Reliability Standard, designated NUC-001-1. In Order No. 716, issued October 16, 2008, the Commission approved the standard while also directing certain revisions.⁴ Revised Reliability Standard, NUC-001-2, was filed with the Commission by NERC in August 2009 and subsequently approved by the Commission January 21, 2010.⁵ On November 4, 2014, in Docket No. RD14-13, the Commission approved revised Reliability Standard NUC-001-3.⁶ On February 21, 2020 NERC filed a petition to revise Reliability Standard NUC-001-3 to NUC-0001-4.⁷

The purpose of Reliability Standard NUC-001-4 is to require “coordination between nuclear plant generator operators and transmission entities for the purpose of ensuring nuclear plant safe operation and shutdown.”⁸ The Nuclear Reliability Standard applies to nuclear plant generator operators (generally nuclear power plant owners and

⁴ *Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination*, Order No. 716, 125 FERC ¶ 61,065, at P 189 & n.90 (2008), *order on reh’g*, Order No. 716-A, 126 FERC ¶ 61,122 (2009).

⁵ *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 130 FERC ¶ 61,051 (2010). When the revised Reliability Standard was approved, the Commission did not go to OMB for approval. It is assumed that the changes made did not substantively affect the information collection and therefore a formal submission to OMB was not needed.

⁶ The Commission Letter Order is posted at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/OpenNat.asp?fileID=13675845>.

⁷ The NERC petition is available on FERC’s eLibrary system (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>) by searching in Docket Number RD21-4.

⁸ See Reliability Standard NUC-001-4 at <http://www.nerc.com/files/NUC-001-4.pdf>.

operators, including licensees) and “transmission entities,” defined in the Reliability Standard as including a nuclear plant’s suppliers of off-site power and related transmission and distribution services. To account for the variations in nuclear plant design and grid interconnection characteristics, the Reliability Standard defines transmission entities as “all entities that are responsible for providing services related to Nuclear Plant Interface Requirements (NPIRs),” and lists eleven types of functional entities (heretofore described as “transmission entities”) that could provide services related to NPIRs.⁹

FERC-725F information collection requirements include establishing and maintaining interface agreements, including record retention requirements. These agreements are not filed with FERC, but with the appropriate entities as established by the Reliability Standard.

In response to the Notice of Information Collection and Request for Comments published in the Federal Register on February 16, 2021 (86 FR 9499), the Commission received no comments on the 60-day Paperwork Reduction Act notice.

Type of Respondent: Nuclear operators, nuclear plants, transmission entities.

⁹ The list of functional entities consists of transmission operators, transmission owners, transmission planners, transmission service providers, balancing authorities, reliability coordinators, planning authorities, distribution providers, load-serving entities, generator owners, and generator operators.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*¹⁰ The Commission estimates the average annual burden and cost¹¹ for this information collection as follows.

FERC-725F (NUC-001-04)	No. of Respondents (1)	Annual No. of Responses Per Respondent (2)	Total No. of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden Hrs. & Cost Per Response (\$) (rounded) (4)	Total Annual Burden Hrs. & Total Annual Cost (\$) (rounded) (3)*(4)=(5)	Cost per Respondent (\$) (rounded) (5)÷(1)
New or Modifications to Existing Agreements (Reporting)	57 nuclear plants + 114 transmission entities ¹²	2	342	66.67 hrs.; \$5,694	22,801 hrs.; \$1,947,433	\$11,388
New or Modification	57 nuclear	2	342	6.67 hrs.; \$232	2,281 hrs.; \$79,356	\$464.07

¹⁰ 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. Refer to 5 CFR 1320.3 for additional information.

¹¹ The wage and benefit figures are based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data (at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm) for May 2019 for Sector 22, Utilities. (The benefits figure is based on BLS data as of May 2020 <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>.)

The estimated hourly cost (for wages plus benefits) for reporting requirements is rounded to \$85.41/hour, based on the average for an electrical engineer (occupation code 17-2071, \$70.19/hour), legal (occupation code 23-0000, \$142.65/hour), and office and administrative staff (occupation code 43-0000, \$43.38/hour).

The estimated hourly cost (wages plus benefits) for record keeping is \$34.79/hour for a file clerk (occupation code 43-4071).

¹² This figure of 120 transmission entities is based on the assumption that each agreement will be between 1 nuclear plant and 2 transmission entities (57 X 2 = 114). However, there is some double counting in this figure because some transmission entities may be party to multiple agreements with multiple nuclear plants. The double counting does not affect the burden estimate, and the correct number of unique respondents will be reported to OMB.

ions to Existing Agreements (Record Keeping)	plants + 114 transmission entities					
Total			342 ¹³		25,082 hrs., ¹⁴	\$2,026,789

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.

¹³ The 171 respondents affected by the reporting requirements are also affected by the recordkeeping requirements.

¹⁴ The reporting requirements have not changed. The decrease in the number of respondents is due to:

- a) normal fluctuations in industry (e.g., companies merging and splitting, and coming into and going out of business), and
- b) no new agreements being issued due to the lack of new nuclear plants being developed.