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For more information about this workshop, please contact David Borden, 202-502-8734, [david.borden@ferc.gov](mailto:david.borden@ferc.gov) or Samin Peirovi, 202-502-8080, [samin.peirovi@ferc.gov](mailto:samin.peirovi@ferc.gov) for technical questions; Meghan O'Brien, 202-502-6137, [meghan.o'brien@ferc.gov](mailto:meghan.o'brien@ferc.gov) for legal questions; and Sarah McKinley, 202-502-8368, [sarah.mckinley@ferc.gov](mailto:sarah.mckinley@ferc.gov) for logistical issues.

Dated: September 9, 2021.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021-19900 Filed 9-14-21; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC21-32-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities; FERC-917 & FERC-918; Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

**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 information collections, FERC-917 (Electric Transmission Facilities) and FERC-918 (Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities), which will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a review of the information collection requirements.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due October 15, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on FERC-917 and/or FERC-918) to OMB through [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. Please identify the OMB Control Number (1902-0233) 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](http://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. IC21-32-000) 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 NE, 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](http://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 email at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto: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 email at [DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), telephone at (202) 502-8663.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** FERC-917, Electric Transmission Facilities and FERC-918, Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities.

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-0233.

**Type of Request:** Three-year extension of the FERC-917 and FERC-918 information collection requirements with no changes to the reporting requirements.

**Type of Respondents:** Public utilities transmission providers.

**Abstract:** On February 17, 2007, the Commission issued Order No. 890<sup>1</sup> to address and remedy opportunities for undue discrimination under the *pro forma* Open Access Transmission Tariff

<sup>1</sup> Order No. 890, *Preventing Undue Discrimination and Preference in Transmission Service*, 18 FERC ¶ 31,096 (2007), 72 FR 12,266 (2007).

(OATT) adopted in 1996 by Order No. 888.<sup>2</sup> Through Order No. 890, the Commission:

1. Adopted *pro forma* OATT provisions necessary to keep imbalance charges closely related to incremental costs.

2. Increased nondiscriminatory access to the grid by requiring public utilities, working through the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), to develop consistent methodologies for available transfer capability (ATC) calculation and to publish those methodologies to increase transparency.

3. Required an open, transparent, and coordinated transmission planning process thereby increasing the ability of customers to access new generating resources and promote efficient utilization of transmission.

4. Gave the right to customers to request from transmission providers, studies addressing congestion and/or integration of new resource loads in areas of the transmission system where they have encountered transmission problems due to congestion or where they believe upgrades and other investments may be necessary to reduce congestion and to integrate new resources.

5. Required both the transmission provider's merchant function and network customers to include a statement with each application for network service or to designate a new network resource that attests, for each network resource identified, that the transmission customer owns or has committed to purchase the designated network resource and the designated network resource complies with the requirements for designated network resources. The network customer includes this attestation in the customer's comment section of the request when it confirms the request on the Open Access Same-Time Information System (OASIS).

6. Required with regard to capacity reassignment that: (a) All sales or assignments of capacity be conducted through or otherwise posted on the transmission provider's OASIS on or before the date the reassigned service

<sup>2</sup> *Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities; Recovery of Stranded Costs by Public Utilities and Transmitting Utilities*, Order No. 888, 61 FR 21540 (May 10, 1996), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,036 (1996), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 888-A, 62 FR 12274 (Mar. 14, 1997), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,048 (1997), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 888-B, 81 FERC ¶ 61,248 (1997), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 888-C, 82 FERC ¶ 61,046 (1998), *aff'd in relevant part sub nom. Transmission Access Policy Study Group v. FERC*, 225 F.3d 667 (D.C. Cir. 2000), *aff'd sub nom. New York v. FERC*, 535 U.S. 1 (2002).

commences; (b) assignees of transmission capacity execute a service agreement prior to the date on which the reassigned service commences; and (c) transmission providers aggregate and summarize in an electric quarterly report the data contained in these service agreements.

7. Adopted an operational penalties annual filing that provides information regarding the penalty revenue the transmission provider has received and distributed.

8. Required creditworthiness information to be included in a transmission provider's OATT. Attachment L must specify the qualitative and quantitative criteria that the transmission provider uses to determine the level of secured and unsecured credit required.

The Commission required a NERC/NAESB<sup>3</sup> team to draft and review Order No. 890 reliability standards and business practices. The team was to solicit comment from each utility on developed standards and practices and utilities were to implement each, after Commission approval. Public utilities, working through NERC, were to revise reliability standards to require the

exchange of data and coordination among transmission providers and, working through NAESB, were to develop complementary business practices. Required OASIS postings included:

1. Explanations for changes in ATC values;
2. Capacity benefit margin (CBM) reevaluations and quarterly postings;
3. OASIS metrics and accepted/denied requests;
4. Planning redispatch offers and reliability redispatch data;
5. Curtailment data;
6. Planning and system impact studies;
7. Metrics for system impact studies; and
8. All rules.

Incorporating the Order No. 890 standards into the Commission's regulations benefits wholesale electric customers by streamlining utility business practices, transactional processes, and OASIS procedures, and by adopting a formal ongoing process for reviewing and upgrading the Commission's OASIS standards and other electric industry business practices. These practices and

procedures benefit from the implementation of generic industry standards.

The Commission's Order No. 890 regulations can be found in 18 CFR 35.28 (*pro forma* tariff requirements), and 37.6 and 37.7 (OASIS requirements). 18 CFR 35.28(b) states: "Audit data must remain available for download on the OASIS for 90 days, except ATC/TTC postings that must remain available for download on the OASIS for 20 days. The audit data are to be retained and made available upon request for download for five years from the date when they are first posted in the same electronic form as used when they originally were posted on the OASIS."

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>4</sup> The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collections as follows. Please note, the zeroes for respondents and responses are based on having no filings of this type over the past four years. In addition, we estimate no filings during the next three years. The requirements remain in the regulations and are included as part of OMB Control Number 1902-0233.

**FERC-917 (ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES) AND FERC-918 (STANDARDS FOR BUSINESS PRACTICES AND COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES)**

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Annual number of responses (1) * (2) = (3)	Average annual burden hrs. & cost <sup>5</sup> per response (\$) (4)	Total average annual burden hours & total annual cost <sup>6</sup> (\$) (3) * (4) = (5)	Average annual cost per respondent (\$) (5) ÷ (1) = (6)
<b>18 CFR 35.28 (FERC-917)</b>						
Conforming tariff changes (Reporting).	20	1	20	20 hrs.; \$1,460.00 .....	400 hrs.; \$29,200.00 .....	\$1,460.00
Revision of Imbalance Charges (Reporting).	21	1	21	25 hrs.; \$1,825.00 .....	525 hrs.; \$38,325.00 .....	1,825.00
ATC revisions (Reporting) ..	11	1	11	20 hrs.; \$1,460.00 .....	220 hrs.; \$16,060.00 .....	1,460.00
Planning (Attachment K) (Reporting) <sup>7</sup> .	162	1	162	100 hrs., \$7,300.00 .....	16,200 hrs., \$1,182,600.00 ...	7,300.00
Congestion studies (Reporting).	162	1	162	300 hrs., \$21,900.00 .....	48,600 hrs., \$3,547,800.00 ...	21,900.00
Attestation of network resource commitment (Reporting).	162	1	162	1 hr., \$73.00 .....	162 hrs., \$11,826.00 .....	73.00
Capacity reassignment (Reporting).	162	1	162	100 hrs., \$7,300.00 .....	16,200 hrs., \$1,182,600.00 ...	7,300.00
Operational Penalty annual filing (Record Keeping) <sup>8</sup> .	162	1	162	10 hrs., \$358.30 .....	1,620 hrs., \$58,044.60 .....	358.30
Creditworthiness—include criteria in the tariff (Reporting) <sup>9</sup> .	0	0	0	0 .....	0 .....	0
FERC-917, Sub-Total of Record Keeping Requirements.					1,620 hrs., \$58,044.60 .....	
FERC-917, Sub-Total of Reporting Requirements.					82,307 hrs., \$6,008,411.00 ...	

<sup>3</sup>NAESB is the North American Energy Standards Board.

<sup>4</sup>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 what is included in the information collection burden, refer to 5 CFR part 1320.

FERC-917 (ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES) AND FERC-918 (STANDARDS FOR BUSINESS PRACTICES AND COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES)—Continued

	Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Annual number of responses	Average annual burden hrs. & cost <sup>5</sup> per response (\$)	Total average annual burden hours & total annual cost <sup>6</sup> (\$)	Average annual cost per respondent (\$)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1) = (6)
FERC-917—Sub Total of Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements.	.....	.....	.....	.....	83,927 hrs., \$6,066,455.60 ...	.....
<b>18 CFR 37.6 &amp; 37.7 (FERC-918)</b>						
Implementation by each utility <sup>9</sup> (Reporting) <sup>10</sup> .	0	0	0	0 .....	0 .....	0
NERC/NAESB Team to develop <sup>9</sup> (Reporting).	0	0	0	0 .....	0 .....	0
Review and comment by utility <sup>9</sup> (Reporting).	0	0	0	0 .....	0 .....	0
Mandatory data exchanges (Reporting).	162	1	162	80 hrs., \$5,840.00 .....	12,960 hrs., \$946,080.00 .....	5,840.00
Explanation of change of ATC values (Reporting).	162	1	162	100 hrs., \$7,300.00 .....	16,200 hrs., \$1,182,600.00 ...	7,300.00
Reevaluate CBM and post quarterly (Record Keeping).	162	1	162	20 hrs., \$716.60 .....	3,240 hrs., \$116,089.20 .....	716.60
Post OASIS metrics; requests accepted/denied (Reporting).	162	1	162	90 hrs., \$6,570.00 .....	14,580 hrs., \$1,064,340.00 ...	6,570.00
Post planning redispatch offers and reliability redispatch data (Record Keeping).	162	1	162	20 hrs., \$716.60 .....	3,240 hrs., \$116,089.20 .....	716.60
Post curtailment data (Reporting).	162	1	162	1 hr., \$73.00 .....	162 hrs., \$11,826.00 .....	73.00
Post Planning and System Impact Studies (Reporting).	162	1	162	5 hrs., \$365.00 .....	810 hrs., \$59,130.00 .....	365.00
Posting of metrics for System Impact Studies (Reporting).	162	1	162	100 hrs., \$7,300.00 .....	16,200 hrs., \$1,182,600.00 ...	7,300.00
Post all rules to OASIS (Record Keeping).	162	1	162	5 hrs., \$179.15 .....	810 hrs., \$29,022.30 .....	179.15
FERC-918, Sub-Total of Record Keeping Requirements.	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,290 hrs., \$261,200.70 .....	.....
FERC-918 Sub-Total of Reporting Requirements.	.....	.....	.....	.....	60,912 hrs., \$4,446,576.00 ...	.....
FERC-918—Sub Total of Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements.	.....	.....	.....	.....	68,202 hrs., \$4,707,776.70 ...	.....
Total FERC-917 and FERC-918 (Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements).	.....	.....	.....	.....	152,129 hrs., \$10,774,232.30	.....

<sup>5</sup> The estimated hourly cost (salary plus benefits) provided in this section is based on the salary figures for March 2021 posted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Utilities sector and benefits based on BLS report; issued June 17, 2021 Employer Costs for Employee Compensation Summary (available at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>). The hourly rates are displayed below:

Legal (Occupation Code: 23-0000): \$142.25  
 Management Analyst (Occupation Code: 13-1111): \$68.39

Office and Administrative Support (Occupation Code: 43-000): \$44.47  
 Electrical Engineer (Occupation Code: 17-2071): \$72.15  
 Information Security Analyst (Occupation Code: 15-1122): \$73.57  
 File Clerk (Occupation Code: 43-4071): \$35.83  
 The skill sets are assumed to contribute equally, so the hourly cost is an average  $[(\$142.25 + \$68.39 + \$44.47 + \$72.15 + \$73.57 + 35.83) \div 6 = \$72.78]$ . The figure is rounded to \$73.00 per hour.

<sup>6</sup> The last renewal of FERC-917/918 (ICR Ref. No. 201802-1902-002) included a \$7,400,000 cost for off-site storage facility for recordkeeping. This cost was not related to burden hours, rather an annual

estimate of the fees related to offsite storage. This cost has been removed as all recordkeeping is retained electronically per 18 CFR 37.7(b), which states: "Audit data must remain available for download on the OASIS for 90 days, except ATC/TTC postings that must remain available for download on the OASIS for 20 days. The audit data are to be retained and made available upon request for download for five years from the date when they are first posted in the same electronic form as used when they originally were posted on the OASIS."

<sup>7</sup> The increase in the number of responses from 134 (from OMB's currently approved inventory for FERC-917/918) to 162 is based on the increased number of companies subject to compliance and

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the collections 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 collections of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collections; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 9, 2021.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021-19903 Filed 9-14-21; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 5596-020]

#### Town of Bedford, Virginia; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions To Intervene and Protests

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.

b. *Project No.:* 5596-020.

c. *Date filed:* April 30, 2021.

d. *Applicant:* Town of Bedford, Virginia.

e. *Name of Project:* Bedford Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the James River in the town of Bedford in Bedford and Amherst counties, Virginia. The project does not affect federal land.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* M. Scott Salmon, Electric Systems Engineer, Town of Bedford Electric Department,

changes in the last few years as identified by the NERC registry.

<sup>8</sup> While we are using the average hourly rate for the majority of the calculations, all recordkeeping tasks are solely completed by a file clerk at \$35.83/hour.

<sup>9</sup> As noted, the zeroes for respondents and responses in the table are based on having no filings of this type over the past four years.

<sup>10</sup> ATC-related standards include: Implementation by each utility (Reporting), NERC/NAESB Team to develop (Reporting), and Review and comment by utility (Reporting).

877 Monroe Street, Bedford, Virginia 24523; (540) 587-6079 or [msalmon@bedfordva.gov](mailto:msalmon@bedfordva.gov).

i. *FERC Contact:* Andy Bernick at (202) 502-8660, or [andrew.bernick@ferc.gov](mailto:andrew.bernick@ferc.gov).

j. *Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests:* 60 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: Bedford Hydroelectric Project (P-5596-020).

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application has been accepted but is not ready for environmental analysis.

l. The current license for the Bedford Hydroelectric Project (Bedford Project) authorizes the following project facilities: (1) A 9- to 17-foot-high concrete gravity dam with a 1,680-foot-long concrete spillway; (2) a 57-acre impoundment with a storage capacity of 350 acre-feet at the normal maximum water surface elevation of 628.0 feet above mean sea level; (3) a 1,200-foot-long, 180-foot-wide, 16-foot-deep power canal; (4) a power canal headgate composed of three 21.6-foot-wide, 15.9-foot-high steel gates; (5) a 49.1-foot-wide, 29.02-foot-high steel trashrack with a clear bar spacing of 3.5-inches; (6) a 55-foot-long, 80-foot-wide powerhouse; (7) a 65-foot-long, 120-foot-wide tailrace; (8) two 2.5-megawatt (MW) turbine-generator units with a total capacity of 5.0 MW; (9) a 110-foot-

long, 2.4-kilovolt (kV) generator lead, and a 180-foot-long, 4.16-kV generator lead; (10) two 2.4/22.9-kV, 0.600-megavolt-ampere (MVA) three-phase step-up transformers, and two 4.16/22.9-kV, 3.75 MVA three-phase step-up transformers; (11) a 2,800-foot-long, 33.9-kilovolt primary transmission line; and (12) appurtenant facilities.

The Town of Bedford's proposed project facilities would revise the project's electrical infrastructure to include a 4.0-kilovolt, 120-foot-long underground transmission line from the powerhouse to the project substation; and two 3.75-megavolt-ampere step-up transformers. In addition, the Town of Bedford proposes to remove the 2,800-foot-long transmission line as it is no longer the project's primary transmission line.

The Bedford Project is operated in run-of-river mode. The average annual generation is estimated to be 1,114.75 megawatt-hours.

m. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested individuals an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the "eLibrary" link. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Access Room due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact FERC at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll-free, (866) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. Anyone may submit a protest or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, 385.211, and 385.214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any protests or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST" or "MOTION TO INTERVENE;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the