

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. IC21-38-000]

COMMISSION INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES
(FERC-920, ELECTRIC QUARTERLY REPORT);
COMMENT REQUEST; EXTENSION

(September 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 (PRA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-920 (Electric Quarterly Report (EQR)), 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 **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit copies of your comments (identified by Docket No. IC21-38-000 and the specific FERC collection number (FERC-920) 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:
 - o 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.
 - o Hand (including courier) delivery to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

Instructions: All 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 <http://www.ferc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Ellen Brown may be reached by e-mail at DataClearance@FERC.gov and telephone at (202) 502-8663.

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

Abstract: The Commission originally set forth the EQR filing requirements in Order No. 2001 (Docket No. RM01-8-000) which 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 Federal Power Act (FPA) section 205(c)³ 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.”

¹ This Notice in Docket No. IC21-38 is separate from, and does not address, the activities in Docket No. AD21-8-000.

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).

³ 16 U.S.C. 824d(c).

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.⁴ 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.⁵

To increase transparency broadly across all wholesale markets subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, the Commission issued Order No. 768 in 2012.⁶ Order No. 768 required market participants that are excluded from the Commission's jurisdiction under the FPA 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 confidence, lower transaction costs, and ultimately supports competitive markets. In

⁴ 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).

⁵ Order No. 2001-G, 120 FERC ¶ 61,270 (2007).

⁶ Order No. 768, 77 Fed. Reg. 61896 (Oct. 11, 2012), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,336 (2012).

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 support its regulatory function over transmission and sales.

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

*Estimate of Annual Burden and Cost*⁷: The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden⁸ for the information collection as:

FERC-920: Electric Quarterly Report (EQR)						
Requirements	Number of Respondents	Average Annual Number of Responses per Respondent	Total Number of Responses	Average Annual Burden Hrs. & Cost (\$) Per Response (rounded)	Total Average Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (\$) (rounded)	Cost per Respondent (\$) (rounded)
	1	2	(1)*(2)=(3)	4	(3)*(4)=(5)	(5)÷(1)
Electric Quarterly Report	2,929	4	11,716	18.1 hrs. \$1,575	212,060 hrs. \$18,452,700	\$6,300
Total			11,716		212,060 hrs. \$18,452,700	\$6,300

⁷ The cost is based on FERC's 2021 Commission-wide average salary cost (salary plus benefits) of \$87.00/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.

⁸ 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 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

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.