

Update, combined with the observation that many LNG-importing nations rely heavily on fossil fuels for electric generation, suggest that exports of U.S. LNG may decrease global GHG emissions, although there is substantial uncertainty on this point, as indicated above.¹⁵² Further, based on the evidence, we see no reason to conclude that U.S. LNG exports will increase global GHG emissions in a material or predictable way. Neither Sierra Club nor the other commenters opposing the LCA GHG Update have provided sufficient evidence to rebut or otherwise undermine these findings.

In sum, DOE finds that the LCA GHG Update is both fundamentally sound and supports the proposition that exports of LNG from the lower-48 states will not be inconsistent with the public interest. As stated, DOE will consider each pending and future non-FTA application as required under the NGA and NEPA, based on the administrative record compiled in each individual proceeding.

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 19, 2019.

Steven Winberg,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 2019-28306 Filed 12-31-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Extension

AGENCY: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: EIA submitted an information collection request for extension as required by The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The information collection requests a three-year extension with changes to the *Electric Power & Renewable Electricity Surveys* (EPRES), OMB Control Number 1905-0129. The collection consists of eight surveys and collects data from entities involved in the production, transmission, delivery, and sale of electricity, and the manufacture, shipment, import, and export of photovoltaic cells and modules in maintaining the reliable operation of the power system. The data collected are the primary source of information on the nation's electric power system.

DATES: Comments on this information collection must be received no later than February 3, 2020. If you anticipate any difficulties in submitting your comments by the deadline, contact the OMB Desk Officer by email or mail.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to OMB Desk Officer: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10102, 735 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. *oira_submission@omb.eop.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you need additional information or copies of the information collection instrument, send your request to Daniel Bier by email at *Electricity2020@eia.gov*, or by phone at (202) 586-0379. The forms and instructions are available on EIA's website at <https://www.eia.gov/survey/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information collection request contains:

- (1) OMB No.: 1905-0129;
- (2) *Information Collection Request*

Title: Electric Power & Renewable Electricity Surveys;

The surveys included in this information collection request are:

- Form EIA-63B *Photovoltaic Module Shipments Report*;
- Form EIA-860 *Annual Electric Generator Report*;
- Form EIA-860M *Monthly Update to the Annual Electric Generator Report*;
- Form EIA-861 *Annual Electric Power Industry Report*;
- Form EIA-861S *Annual Electric Power Industry Report (Short Form)*;
- Form EIA-861M *Monthly Electric Power Industry Report*;
- Form EIA-923 *Power Plant Operations Report*; and
- Form EIA-930 *Balancing Authority Operations Report*.

(3) *Type of Request:* Three-year extension with changes;

(4) *Purpose:* The EPRES survey program collects data from business entities involved in the production, transmission, delivery, and sale of electricity, and in maintaining the reliable operation of the power system. The data collected are the primary source of information on the nation's electric power industry.

The individual surveys and their uses are described below:

- Form EIA-63B *Photovoltaic Module Shipments Report* collects information on photovoltaic module manufacturing, shipments, technology types, revenue, and related information. The data collected on this form are used by DOE, Congress, other government and non-government entities, and the public to monitor the current status and trends of the photovoltaic industry.

- Form EIA-860 *Annual Electric Generator Report* collects data on existing and planned electric generation plants, and associated equipment including generators, boilers, cooling systems, and environmental control systems to provide information on the generating capacity of the U.S. electric grid.

- Form EIA-860M *Monthly Update to the Annual Electric Generator Report* collects data on the status of proposed new generators scheduled to begin commercial operation within the future 12-month period; and existing generators that have proposed modifications that are scheduled for completion within one month as well as existing generators scheduled to shut down within the subsequent 12 months.

- Form EIA-861 *Annual Electric Power Industry Report* collects annual information on the retail sale, distribution, transmission, and generation of electric energy in the United States and its territories. The data include related activities such as energy efficiency and demand response programs. In combination with Form EIA-861S short form and the monthly Form EIA-861M, this annual survey provides coverage of sales to ultimate customers of electric power and related activities. Form EIA-861S, *Annual Electric Power Industry Report (Short Form)* collects a limited set of information annually from small companies involved in the retail sale of electricity. A complete set of annual data are collected from large companies on Form EIA-861. The small utilities that currently report on Form EIA-861S are required to complete Form EIA-861 once every eight years to provide updated information for the statistical estimation of uncollected data. Form EIA-861M, *Monthly Electric Power Industry Report* collects monthly information from a sample of electric utilities, energy service providers and distribution companies that sell or deliver or deliver electric power to end users. Data included on this form includes sales and revenue for end-use sectors—residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation. This survey is the monthly complement to the annual data collection from the universe of respondents that report on Form EIA-861 and Form EIA-861S.

- Form EIA-923 *Power Plant Operations Report* collects information from electric power plants in the United States on electric power generation, energy source consumption, end of reporting period fossil fuel stocks, as well as the quality and cost of fossil fuel receipts.

¹⁵² See LCA GHG Update at 32.

- Form EIA-930 *Balancing Authority Operations Report* collects a comprehensive set of the current day's system demand data on an hourly basis and the prior day's basic hourly electric system operating data on a daily basis. The data provide a basic measure of the current status of electric systems in the United States and can be used to compare actual system demand with the day-ahead forecast, thereby providing a measure of the accuracy of the forecasting used to commit resources. In addition, the data can be used to address smart grid related issues such as integrating wind and solar generation, improving the coordination of natural gas and electric short-term operations and expanding the use of demand response, storage, and electric vehicles in electric systems operations.

(4a) *Changes to Information Collection:*

Form EIA-411

EIA is discontinuing Form EIA-411.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:* 19,789:

Form EIA-63B has 55 respondents;

Form EIA-860 has 4,757 respondents;

Form EIA-860M has 312 respondents;

Form EIA-861 has 1,675 respondents;

Form EIA-861S has 1,730 respondents;

Form EIA-861M has 620 respondents;

Form EIA-923 has 10,575 respondents;

Form EIA-930 has 65 respondents.

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:* 75,206.

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 170,041 hours.

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* \$13,351,619 (170,041 burden hours times \$78.52 per hour). EIA estimates that there are no additional costs to respondents associated with the surveys other than the costs associated with the burden hours.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 772(b) and 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 17, 2019.

Nanda Srinivasan,

Director, Office of Statistical Methods and Research, U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 2019-28322 Filed 12-31-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

Docket Numbers: ER19-456-003.

Applicants: Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

Description: Compliance filing; Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative Formula Rate Compliance Filing to be effective 2/1/2019.

Filed Date: 12/26/19.

Accession Number: 20191226-5028.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 1/16/20.

Docket Numbers: ER20-683-000.

Applicants: Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing; Tri-State Wholesale Electric Service Contracts to be effective 3/20/2020.

Filed Date: 12/26/19.

Accession Number: 20191226-5000.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 1/16/20.

Docket Numbers: ER20-684-000.

Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing; 2019-12-26 SA 3176 NSP-NSP 1st Rev GIA (J460) to be effective 12/10/2019.

Filed Date: 12/26/19.

Accession Number: 20191226-5033.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 1/16/20.

Docket Numbers: ER20-685-000.

Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing; 2019-12-26 SA 1634 ITC Midwest-Jeffers Wind 20 2nd Rev GIA (G442) to be effective 12/11/2019.

Filed Date: 12/26/19.

Accession Number: 20191226-5112.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 1/16/20.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the links or querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene or protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For

other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: December 26, 2019.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-28297 Filed 12-31-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM98-1-000]

Records Governing Off-the-Record Communications; Public Notice

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(b), of the receipt of prohibited and exempt off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who make or receive a prohibited or exempt off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested proceeding, to deliver to the Secretary of the Commission, a copy of the communication, if written, or a summary of the substance of any oral communication.

Prohibited communications are included in a public, non-decisional file associated with, but not a part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become a part of the decisional record, the prohibited off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record communication, and may request that the Commission place the prohibited communication and responses thereto in the decisional record. The Commission will grant such a request only when it determines that fairness so requires. Any person identified below as having made a prohibited off-the-record communication shall serve the document on all parties listed on the official service list for the applicable proceeding in accordance with Rule 2010, 18 CFR 385.2010.

Exempt off-the-record communications are included in the decisional record of the proceeding, unless the communication was with a cooperating agency as described by 40 CFR 1501.6, made under 18 CFR 385.2201(e)(1)(v).

The following is a list of off-the-record communications recently