

and dimensional sort classification tasks, and vignette classifications. The objective of all of these techniques is to aid in the development of surveys that work with respondents' thought processes, thus reducing response error and burden. These techniques have also proven useful for studying and revising pre-existing questionnaires.

Behavior Coding. Behavior coding is a quantitative technique in which a standard set of codes is systematically applied to respondent/interviewer interactions in interviewer-administered surveys or respondent/questionnaire interactions in self-administered surveys. The advantage of this technique is that it can identify and quantify problems with the wording or ordering of questions, but the disadvantage is that it does not necessarily illuminate the underlying causes.

Split Panel Test. Split panel tests refer to controlled experimental testing of alternative hypotheses. Thus, they allow one to choose from among competing questions, questionnaires, definitions, error messages or survey improvement methodologies with greater confidence than any of the other methods. Split panel tests conducted during the fielding of the survey are superior in that they can support both internal validity (controlled comparisons of the variable(s) under investigation) and external validity (represent the population under study). Most of the previously mentioned survey improvement methods can be strengthened when teamed with this method.

Research reports, research publications, peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed book chapters, and informational white papers: From the collected data, EIA will have the ability to write research papers, research publications, peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed book chapters, and informational white papers. Summarized results may be released or discussed as experimental research in the types of publications. However, the information collected from these methodologies will not be released as official statistics and will explicitly note the experimental nature of the information.

Professional conferences: EIA may present data collected from this research at various professional conferences. Professional conferences provide great opportunities to communicate EIA's research to the broader energy, statistical and survey methodology communities and get feedback on completed research. This will help innovate not only EIA's research and

survey practices, but also that of these broader communities.

Audio and Video Recordings: For qualitative interviews, EIA will ask potential respondents if they would be willing to be audio or video recorded. If potential respondents agree, EIA will provide them with an informed consent form, which respondents will sign to signify compliance. A copy of the signed consent will be given to the potential respondents and kept on file at EIA. Audio or video recording will only be used for data analysis, and only those researchers at EIA that are involved in the research will have access to these recordings. If potential respondents are not willing to be audio/video recorded, interviewer will bypass recording and take notes.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:* 7,500;

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:* 7,500;

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 7,500.

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

Signed in Washington, DC, on January 11, 2022.

Samson A. Adeshiyan,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC22-6-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-714) 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 currently approved information collection, FERC-714, (Annual Electric Balancing Authority Area and Planning Area Report).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due March 21, 2022.

ADDRESSES: You may submit your comments (identified by Docket No. IC22-6-000) 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: 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 email 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 CONTACT:

Ellen Brown may be reached by email at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-714, Annual Electric Balancing Authority Area and Planning Area Report.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0140.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-714 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission uses the FERC-714 data to analyze power system operations. These analyses estimate the effect of changes in power system operations resulting from the installation of a new generating unit or plant, transmission facilities, energy transfers between systems, and/or new points of interconnections. The FERC-714 data assists in providing a broad picture of interconnected balancing authority area operations including: Comprehensive information of balancing authority area generation, actual and scheduled inter-balancing authority area power transfers, and net energy for load, summer and winter generation peaks and system lambda. The Commission also uses the data to prepare status reports on the electric utility industry including a review of inter-balancing authority area bulk power trade information. The Commission uses the collected data

from planning areas to monitor forecasted demands by electric utilities with fundamental demand responsibilities and to develop hourly demand characteristics.

Type of Respondent: Electric utility balancing authorities and planning areas in the United States.
*Estimate of Annual Burden:*¹ The Commission estimates the annual public

reporting burden and cost² (rounded) for the information collection as follows:

FERC-714

[Annual Electric Balancing Authority Area and Planning Area Report]

| Number of respondents | Annual number of responses per respondent | Total number of responses | Average burden & cost per response | Total annual burden hours & total annual cost | Cost per respondent (\$) |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (1) * (2) = (3) | (4) | (3) * (4) = (5) | (5) ÷ (1) |
| 176 | 1 | 176 | 93.33 hrs.; \$7,279.74 | 16,426.67 hrs.; \$1,281,280.26 | \$7,279.74 |

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.

Dated: January 11, 2022.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2022-00813 Filed 1-14-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 15244-000]

PacifiCorp; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

On October 13, 2021, PacifiCorp filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act, proposing to study the feasibility of the Rocky Ridge Pumped Storage Project (Rocky Ridge Project or

project), a closed-loop pumped storage project to be located south of the town of Glenrock in Converse and Natrona Counties, Wyoming. The proposed project would be located in part on federal lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

Three alternatives are being considered for the Rocky Ridge Project. Alternative 1 would be located about seven miles southeast of the town of Glenrock, Wyoming and consist of the following: (1) An upper reservoir with a surface area of 164 acres and a storage volume of approximately 3,032 acre-feet created by a 1,475-foot-long, 300-foot-high embankment dam; (2) a lower reservoir with a surface area of 63.5 acres and a storage volume of approximately 3,100 acre-feet created by a 4,600-foot-long, 60-foot-high embankment dam; (3) a 5.2-mile-long, 20-foot-diameter steel penstock connecting the upper reservoir with the powerhouse/pump station; (4) a 150-foot-long, 50-foot-wide concrete powerhouse/pump station located on the lower reservoir shoreline containing three 167-megawatt (MW) generating/pumping units for a total capacity of 500 MW; (5) a 4.2-mile-long, 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line interconnecting to PacifiCorp's Amasa substation; (6) a

11.4-mile-long, 24-inch-diameter underground pipeline to divert water from the North Platte River near Glenrock to the project for initial and maintenance fill; and, (7) appurtenant facilities.

The majority of the facilities for Alternative 2 (*i.e.*, project reservoirs, penstock, and powerhouse, etc.) would be located about three miles southwest of Alternative 1 and consist of the following: (1) An upper reservoir with a surface area of 202 acres and a storage volume of approximately 3,096 acre-feet created by a 1,750-foot-long, 150-foot-high embankment dam; (2) a lower reservoir with a surface area of 55.5 acres and a storage volume of approximately 3,100 acre-feet created by a 2,950-foot-long, 30-foot-high embankment dam; (3) a 1.6-mile-long, 20-foot-diameter steel penstock connecting the upper reservoir with the powerhouse/pump station; (4) a 150-foot-long, 50-foot-wide concrete powerhouse/pump station located on the lower reservoir shoreline containing three 167-MW generating/pumping units for a total capacity of 500 MW; (5) a 7-mile-long, 230-kV transmission line interconnecting to PacifiCorp's Amasa substation; (6) a 14.3-mile-long, 24-inch-diameter underground pipeline to divert water from the North Platte River near Glenrock to the project for initial and maintenance fill; and, (7) appurtenant facilities.

The majority of the facilities for Alternative 3 (*i.e.*, project reservoirs, penstock, and powerhouse, etc.) would be located about three miles southwest

¹ 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 1320.3.

² The hourly cost (for salary plus benefits) uses the figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2021, for the listed reporting requirements. These figures include salary (<https://www.bls.gov/oes/>

[current/naics2_22.htm](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm)) and benefits <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>) and are:

- Management (Code 11-0000), \$97.89/hr.
- Computer and mathematical (Code 15-0000), \$65.73/hr.
- Electrical Engineers (Code 17-2071), \$72.15/hr.
- Economist (Code 19-3011), \$75.75/hr.
- Computer and Information Systems Managers (Code 11-3021), \$103.61/hr.

Accountants and Auditors (Code 13-2011), \$57.41/hr.

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers (Code 11-3071), \$86.80/hr.

Power Distributors and Dispatchers (Code 51-8012), \$63.74/hr.

The average hourly cost (wages plus benefits) for the above wages is \$77.89/hour (rounded to \$78.00/hour).