

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RD23–6–000]

**Commission Information Collection Activities Comment Request; Extension****AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.**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 proposed revisions of the currently approved information collection, FERC–725A (Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System) and FERC–725Z (Mandatory Reliability Standards: IRO Reliability Standards) as it affects information collection requirements associated with proposed on Reliability Standards IRO–010–5 and TOP–003–6.1. The 60-day notice comment period ended on February 12, 2024, with one comment received.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due May 2, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on FERC–725A and 725Z 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 Numbers 725A (1902–0244) and 725Z (1902–0276) 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. RD23–6–000) by one of the following methods: Electronic filing through <https://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, Secretary of the 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: <https://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:** Jean Sonneman may be reached by email at [DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), telephone at (202) 502–6362.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* FERC–725A (Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System) and FERC–725Z (Mandatory Reliability Standards: IRO Reliability Standards) as it affects information collection requirements associated with proposed on Reliability Standards IRO–010–5 and TOP–003–6.1.

*OMB Control No.:* FERC–725A (1902–0244) FERC–725Z (1902–0276).

*Type of Request:* Approval of FERC–725A and FERC–725Z information collection requirements associated with proposed on Reliability Standards IRO–010–5 and TOP–003–6.1.

*Abstract:* This Notice pertains to the FERC–725A and FERC–725Z information collection requirements. On September 21, 2023, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) filed a petition (NERC Petition) seeking approval of proposed Reliability Standards IRO–010–5 (Reliability Coordinator Data and Information Specification and Collection), and TOP–003–6.1 (Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection), the associated Violation Risk Factors and Violation Severity Levels, and the proposed implementation plan including the retirement of the currently-effective Reliability Standards IRO–010–4 and TOP–003–5.

NERC states in its petition that it revised both standards so that the language is parallel in form and function and uses similar vernacular in describing the underlying requirements. The proposed revisions allow applicable entities to use available technologies, integrate new technologies, and define expectations for data and information exchange.<sup>1</sup> The modifications to these two standards originated through the second phase of NERC’s Standards Efficiency Review (SER) to consolidate information/data exchange requirements.<sup>2</sup>

NERC’s petition was noticed on September 26, 2023, with interventions, comments, and protests due on or before October 26, 2023.

NERC’s uncontested filing is hereby approved pursuant to the relevant authority delegated to the Director, Office of Electric Reliability under 18 CFR 375.303(a)(2)(i) (2023).

The following tables were modified to use annualized totals due to the comments received.

Revised TOP–003–6.1, 725A in table below:

<sup>1</sup> NERC Petition at 13.

<sup>2</sup> See NERC, *SER Phase 2 Recommendations Working Document*, (Aug. 2021), [https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Standards%20Efficiency%20Review%20DL/SER\\_Phase\\_2\\_Recommendations\\_Working\\_Document\\_08062021.xlsx](https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Standards%20Efficiency%20Review%20DL/SER_Phase_2_Recommendations_Working_Document_08062021.xlsx).

TOP-003-6.1—TRANSMISSION OPERATOR AND BALANCING AUTHORITY DATA AND INFORMATION SPECIFICATION AND COLLECTION ANNUAL

Type of entity	Number of respondents <sup>3</sup>	Annual number of responses per respondent	Annual number of responses	Average burden hrs. & cost per response	Total annual burden hours & cost
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4) <sup>4</sup>	(3) * (4) = (5)
<b>FERC-725A, OMB Control No. 1902-0244</b>					
TOP .....	166	1	166	80 hrs.; \$5,429.60 .....	13,280 hrs.; \$901,313.60.
BA .....	98	1	98	80 hrs.; \$5,429.60 .....	7,840 hrs.; \$532,100.80.
TO .....	323	1	323	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	2,584 hrs.; \$175,376.08.
GOP .....	1,002	1	1,002	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	8,016 hrs.; \$544,045.92.
GO .....	1,164	1	1,164	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	9,312 hrs.; \$632,005.44.
DP .....	301	1	301	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	2,408 hrs.; \$163,430.96.
FERC-725A for TOP-003-6.1 Total Annual.					43,440 hrs.; \$2,948,272.80.

Revised IRO-010-5, 725Z table:

IRO-010-5—RELIABILITY COORDINATOR DATA AND INFORMATION SPECIFICATION AND COLLECTION ANNUAL

Type of entity	Number of respondents <sup>5</sup>	Annual number of responses per respondent	Annual number of responses	Average burden & cost per response	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4) <sup>6</sup>	(3) * (4) = (5)
<b>FERC-725Z, OMB Control No. 1902-0276</b>					
RC .....	12	1	12	80 hrs.; \$5,429.60 .....	960 hrs.; \$65,155.20.
BA .....	98	1	98	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	784 hrs.; \$53,210.08.
GO .....	1,164	1	1,164	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	9,312 hrs.; \$632,005.44.
GOP .....	1,002	1	1,002	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	8,016 hrs.; \$544,045.92.
TOP .....	166	1	166	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	1,328 hrs.; \$90,131.36.
TO .....	323	1	323	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	2,584 hrs.; \$175,376.08.
DP .....	301	1	301	8 hrs.; \$542.96 .....	2,408 hrs.; \$163,430.96.
FERC-725Z for IRO-010-5 Annual.					25,392 hrs.; \$1,723,355.04.

*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.

The one comment received offers that the estimates appear to capture burden estimates and costs of initial implementation only within years one and two and does not capture requirements beyond year three and forward. Staff reviewed the comment and updated the estimates to reflect the reporting burden to be an annual burden, instead of just for years one and two. Tables for 725A (TOP Reliability Standards) and 725Z (IRO Reliability Standards) have been updated to show the change with the original estimates,

followed by the revised table for both collections.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to

<sup>3</sup> Values represent unique U.S. entities as based on the NERC compliance registry information as of September 22, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> The estimated hourly cost (salary plus benefits) is a combination based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as of 2023, for 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071) \$77.29/hr.,  $77.29 \times .75 = 57.9675$  (\$57.97-rounded) (\$57.97/hour) and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk

(43-4199) \$39.58/hr.,  $\$39.58 \times .25\% = 9.895$  (\$9.90 rounded) (\$9.90/hour), for a total  $(\$57.97 + \$9.90 = \$67.87/\text{hour})$ .

<sup>5</sup> Values represent unique US entities as based on the NERC compliance registry information as of September 22, 2023.

<sup>6</sup> The estimated hourly cost (salary plus benefits) is a combination based on the Bureau of Labor

Statistics (BLS), as of 2022, for 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071) \$77.29/hr.,  $77.29 \times .75 = 57.9675$  (\$57.97-rounded) (\$57.97/hour) and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43-4199) \$39.58/hr.,  $\$39.58 \times .25\% = 9.895$  (\$9.90 rounded) (\$9.90/hour), for a total  $(\$57.97 + \$9.90 = \$67.87/\text{hour})$ .

contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

Dated: March 26, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2024-06869 Filed 4-1-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2715-026]

**Kaukauna Utilities; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment**

On July 22, 2022, Kaukana Utilities (Kaukauna) filed a relicense application for the 6.2-megawatt Combined Locks Hydroelectric Project No. 2715 (project). The project is located on the Lower Fox River in the Village of Combined Locks and the Village of Little Chute, Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, on January 16, 2024, Commission staff issued a notice that the project was ready for environmental analysis (REA Notice). Based on the information in the record, including comments filed on the REA Notice, staff does not anticipate that licensing the project would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the application to relicense the project.

The EA will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the EA will be analyzed by staff and considered in the Commission's final licensing decision.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target date
Commission issues EA .....	August 2024. <sup>1</sup>

Milestone	Target date
Comments on EA .....	October 2024.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Kelly Wolcott at (202) 502-6480 or *kelly.wolcott@ferc.gov*.

Dated: March 26, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2024-06873 Filed 4-1-24; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP24-60-000]

**Northern Natural Gas; Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project**

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document, that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Northern Natural Gas (Northern) in Freeborn, Houston, and Washington Counties, Minnesota, and Monroe County, Wisconsin. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies regarding the project. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This gathering of public input is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues.

<sup>1</sup> The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations under 40 CFR 1501.10(b)(1) (2023) require that EAs be completed within 1 year of the Federal action agency's decision to prepare an EA. See National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, as amended by section 107(g)(1)(B)(iii) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, Public Law 118-5, section 4336a, 137 Stat. 42.

Additional information about the Commission's NEPA process is described below in the *NEPA Process and Environmental Document* section of this notice.

By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 25, 2024. Comments may be submitted in written form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the *Public Participation* section of this notice.

Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written comments during the preparation of the environmental document.

If you submitted comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on February 16, 2024, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP24-60-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, the Natural Gas Act conveys the right of eminent domain to the company. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law. The Commission does not subsequently grant, exercise, or oversee the exercise of that eminent domain authority. The courts have exclusive authority to handle eminent domain cases; the