

Supporting Statement for the proposed revision of FERC-516H (Electric Rate Schedules and Tariff Filings) in Docket No. RM22-2-000

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) requests that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review the proposed revisions due to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) in Docket No. RM22-2-000 which will revise the FERC-516H (OMB Control No. 1902-0303) and provide comments or defer comments until the final rule.

The proposed revisions included in Docket No. RM22-2-000 would require respondents to update their Open Access Transmission Tariffs (OATTs), *pro forma* Large Generator Interconnection Agreements (LGIAs), and *pro forma* Small Generator Interconnection Agreements (SGIAs) and would require a single compliance filing to be submitted to the Commission. This supplemental statement pertains to the OATTs.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAKE THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION NECESSARY

The Federal Power Act (FPA)¹ requires respondents that are subject to 18 CFR 35.28 to submit compliance filings. The regulation at 18 CFR 35.28, which pertains to non-discriminatory OATTs, applies to:

- Commission-jurisdictional public utilities that own, control, or operate facilities used for the transmission of electric energy in interstate commerce; and
- Non-jurisdictional utilities that seek voluntary compliance with jurisdictional transmission tariff reciprocity conditions.

Generally, generating facilities that are interconnected to the transmission system are required to operate within a standard power factor range, which represents the proportion of their output that is reactive power versus real power. Transmission providers may elect to pay their own or affiliated generating facilities for the provision of reactive power within the standard power factor range provided that they also pay unaffiliated generating facilities. These charges are then included in and increase transmission providers' transmission rates.

The Commission is proposing to eliminate this allowance so that all generating facilities, on a comparable basis, do not receive separate payment for the provision of reactive power within the standard power factor range. As such, the Commission is proposing to add language to Schedule 2 of its *pro forma* OATT specifying that transmission rates shall not include any charges associated with compensation to a generating facility for the supply of reactive power within the standard power factor range specified in the generating facility's interconnection agreement. In addition, the Commission is proposing to remove from section 9.6.3 of its *pro forma* LGIA and section 1.8.2 of its *pro forma* SGIA language that requires transmission providers to pay interconnection customers for the supply of reactive power within the standard range if transmission providers pay their own or affiliated generating facilities.

¹ 16 U.S.C. 824e.

2. HOW, BY WHOM AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE IS THE INFORMATION USED AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT COLLECTING THE INFORMATION

The proposed revisions to the *pro forma* OATT, *pro forma* LGIA, and *pro forma* SGIA are shown in section III.C of the NOPR. The Commission is proposing these revisions to ensure that transmission rates are just and reasonable.

The Commission has allowed transmission providers to pay generating facilities in their service territories for reactive power within the standard power factor range to ensure comparable treatment between generating facilities that are owned by or affiliated with the transmission provider and unaffiliated generating facilities in the given region. However, the provision of reactive power within the standard power factor range results in only *de minimus* costs to the generating facility. In many regions of the country, transmission providers do not pay separately for the provision of reactive power within the standard power factor range, instead allowing generating facilities to recover any costs associated with the requirement to provide reactive power within the standard power factor range through the same means by which generating facilities recover the costs associated with the provision of real power. These regions that do not separately compensate for providing reactive power have not seen any shortfalls in reactive power supply from generating facilities or other reliability issues stemming from the decision not to separately compensate for providing reactive power within the standard power factor range.

Given that there is no separate economic basis for these reactive power payments beyond ensuring comparability, the Commission is concerned that continuing to allow transmission providers to elect to separately compensate their own or affiliated generating facilities for the provision of reactive power within the standard power factor range, thereby requiring transmission provider to also pay unaffiliated generating facilities, is resulting in excessive costs to transmission customers.

The information collection activities listed below, which will be added to FERC-516H, are all one-time burdens in Year 1. Specifically, the information collection activities are limited to compliance filings from entities with OATTs, *pro forma* LGIAs, or *pro forma* SGIA on file with the Commission.

3. DESCRIBE ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE USE OF IMPROVED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE BURDEN AND THE TECHNICAL OR LEGAL OBSTACLES TO REDUCING BURDEN

FERC implements its eTariff system for the electronic filing of tariffs. More information on eTariff is posted at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/etariff>.

4. DESCRIBE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATION AND SHOW SPECIFICALLY WHY ANY SIMILAR INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE CANNOT BE USED OR MODIFIED FOR USE FOR THE PURPOSE(S) DESCRIBED IN INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FERC rules and data requirements are periodically reviewed in conjunction with OMB clearance expiration dates. This includes a review of the Commission's regulations and data requirements to identify duplication. The information to be submitted, generated, retained, or posted, pursuant to the final rule is not available from other sources.

5. METHODS USED TO MINIMIZE BURDEN IN COLLECTION OF INFORMATION INVOLVING SMALL ENTITIES

Under the Small Business Administration's classification,² the six Regional Transmission Operators and Independent System Operators (RTOs/ISOs) would be considered electric bulk power transmission and control, for which the small business size threshold is 950 or fewer employees. Because each RTO/ISO has more than 950 employees, none are considered small entities. The Commission estimated that 40 transmission providers and three other entities with *pro forma* LGIAs and *pro forma* SGIAs are affected by this final rule and that approximately 14% of those entities are small entities affected by the final rule.

6. CONSEQUENCE TO FEDERAL PROGRAM IF COLLECTION WERE CONDUCTED LESS FREQUENTLY

The Commission requires this information in order to perform its mandated oversight and review responsibilities with respect to electric transmission rates being just and reasonable. Without this information, the Commission would be unable to meet its statutory responsibility under section 206 of the FPA to ensure that electric utility rates and tariffs are not unjust, unreasonable, or unduly discriminatory or preferential. Failing to meet this responsibility could result in public utilities charging rates that are not just and reasonable.

7. EXPLAIN ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE INFORMATION

This collection contains no special circumstances.

8. DESCRIBE EFFORTS TO CONSULT OUTSIDE THE AGENCY: SUMMARIZE PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE AGENCY'S RESPONSE TO THESE COMMENTS

The Commission issued the proposed rule on March 21, 2024 and it published in the Federal Register on March 28, 2024. The Commission is seeking comment on the proposed revisions through the rulemaking process.

² 13 CFR 121.201 (2023) (Sector 22, Utilities).

9. EXPLAIN ANY PAYMENT OR GIFTS TO RESPONDENTS

The Commission makes no payments or gifts to respondents as part of this collection.

10. DESCRIBE ANY ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY PROVIDED TO RESPONDENTS

The Commission does not consider the information collected in FERC-516H filings to be confidential. However, an entity that chooses to seek confidential treatment of the information may submit a request for the Commission to treat this information as confidential and non-public, consistent with 18 CFR 388.112.

11. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY QUESTIONS OF A SENSITIVE NATURE, SUCH AS SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDES, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE COMMONLY CONSIDERED PRIVATE

There are no questions of a sensitive nature associated with the reporting requirements.

12. ESTIMATED BURDEN COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

The Commission estimates that the final rule will affect the burden³ and cost of FERC-516H as follows:

³ “Burden” is 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.

A. Collection	B. Number of Respondent s	C. Annual Number of Responses per Responden t	D. Total Number of Response s (Column B x Column C)	E. Average Burden Hrs. & Cost per Response	F. Total Annual Hr. Burdens & Total Annual Cost (Column D x Column E)	G. Cost per Responden t (Column F ÷ Column B)
Transmission Providers with Open Access Transmission Tariffs (one-time compliance filing)	40	1	40	4 hrs.; \$400	160 hrs.; \$16,000	\$400
Totals		—		—	160 hrs.; \$16,000	—

13. ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST BURDEN TO RESPONDENTS

There are no non-labor or Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)-related costs. All costs are related to burden hours and are addressed in Questions #12 and #15.

14. ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Table 14
Estimated Annual Federal Costs for FERC-516H

	Number of Employees (Full-Time Equivalents)	Estimated Annual Federal Cost
Analysis and Processing of Filings ⁴	3.30	\$685,693.80
PRA ⁵ Administrative Cost		\$8,396
Total Federal Cost		\$694,089.80

⁴ Based upon FERC's 2024 average annual salary plus benefits, i.e., \$207,786 per year (\$100 per hour).

⁵ "PRA" refers to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

FERC-516H (OMB Control No. 1902-0303)

Docket No. RM22-2-000

RIN No. 1902-AF91

FERC bases its estimate of the “Analysis and Processing of Filings” cost to the Federal Government on salaries and benefits for professional and clerical support. This estimated cost represents staff analysis, decision-making, and review of any actual filings submitted in response to the information collection.

The “PRA Administrative Cost” is associated with preparing, issuing, and submitting materials necessary to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act for rulemakings, orders, or any other vehicle used to create, modify, extend, or discontinue an information collection. This average annual cost includes requests for extensions, all associated rulemakings and orders, other changes to the collection, and publication of related notices in the Federal Register.

15. REASONS FOR CHANGES IN BURDEN INCLUDING THE NEED FOR ANY INCREASE

The NOPR proposes an increase in burden due to the one-time compliance filing that would be required following a final rule.

	Total Request (Rounded)	Previously Approved (Rounded)	Change Due to Adjustment in Estimate	Change Due to Agency Discretion
Annual Number of Responses	329	289	0	+40
Annual Time Burden (Hrs.)	51,024	50,864	0	+160
Annual Cost Burden (\$)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

16. TIME SCHEDULE FOR PUBLICATION OF DATA

There are no tabulating or statistical analysis or publication plans for the collection of information. The data are used for regulatory purposes only.

17. DISPLAY OF EXPIRATION DATE

The expiration date is displayed at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

18. EXCEPTIONS TO THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

There are no exceptions.