

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. IC26-36-000]

COMMISSION INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES (FERC-521);
COMMENT REQUEST; EXTENSION

(September 15, 2026)

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 FERC-521: Payments for Benefits from Headwater Improvements (OMB Control No 1902-0087) which will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a review of the information collection requirements. There are no proposed changes to the reporting requirements. No comments were received in the 60-day comment period.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due **[Insert Date 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register]**.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on FERC-521 to OMB through https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/icrPublicCommentRequest?ref_nbr=202607-1902-007. You can also visit <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain> and use the drop-down under “Currently under Review” to select the “Federal Energy Regulatory Commission” where you can see the open opportunities to provide comments. Comments should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Please submit a copy of your comments to the Commission via email to

DataClearance@FERC.gov. You must specify the docket No. (IC26-36-000) and the FERC Information Collection number (FERC-521) in your email. If you are unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery:

- Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.
- All other delivery methods: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

Docket: To view comments and issuances in this docket, please visit

<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kayla Williams, (202) 502-6468.

DataClearance@FERC.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-521, Payments for Benefits from Headwater Improvements

OMB Control No.: 1902-0087

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-521 information collection requirements with no changes to the reporting requirements.

Abstract: The purpose of FERC-521 is to implement information collections pursuant to Section 10(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA). Section 10(f) of the FPA requires hydropower licensees to reimburse upstream headwater project owners for an equitable portion of the benefits it receives as a result of construction work related to headwater

improvements. These benefits, referred to as headwater benefits, are the additional energy production possible at a downstream hydropower project resulting from the regulation of river flows by an upstream storage reservoir. The Commission requires federal agencies and owners of non-federal hydropower projects to file data for determining headwater benefits as outlined in 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 11.

Type of Respondents: There are two types of entities that respond, Federal and Non-Federal storage and hydropower project owners. The Federal entities that typically respond include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation. The Non-Federal entities may consist of any Municipal or Non-Municipal hydropower project owner.

Estimate of Annual Burden¹ and cost²: The Commission estimates the total Public Reporting Burden for this information collection as:

	Number of Respondents (1)	Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)	Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden & Cost Per Response (4)	Total Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (3)*(4)=(5)	Cost per Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)
--	--------------------------------------	--	--	---	--	---

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 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

² FERC estimates that industry hourly costs are similar to the Commission FY 2026 average salary plus benefits of \$213,003 per year (or \$102/hour).

Federal and Non-Federal project owners	3	1	3	40 hrs.; \$4,080	120 hrs.; \$12,240	\$4,080
---	---	---	---	---------------------	-----------------------	---------

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.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Secretary.