Supporting Statement for
FERC-510, Application for Surrender of a Hydropower License

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) requests the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the renewal of information collection FERC-510, Application for Surrender of a Hydropower License, for an additional three years. FERC-510 collects information pursuant to the filing requirements in Sections 4(e), 6, and 13 of the Federal Power Act. No changes are being made to the reporting requirements.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAKE THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION NECESSARY

The Commission is responsible for licensing non-federal hydropower projects if they are on lands or waters subject to Congressional authority. Part I of the Federal Power Act[1] (FPA) gives the Commission the authority to issue licenses for hydroelectric projects on these waters. The Commission issues licenses for terms of up to 50 years that are best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or developing a waterway or for the use or benefit of interstate or foreign commerce. Licenses are also issued for the improvement and utilization of waterpower development; for the adequate protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife; and for other beneficial public uses, including irrigation, flood control, water supply, and recreation.[2]

Licenses may be surrendered, but only after the licensee fulfills all obligations of the license and any conditions imposed by the Commission necessary to protect dam safety, public safety, and environmental resources. The Commission often needs certain information from the licensee in order to determine the conditions under which a surrender application can be granted.

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

[1] 16 U.S.C. Sections 791a et seq.

[2] More information on the Commission's hydropower program in general is posted at https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/hydropower/overview. Additional information on surrendering a license or exemption is posted at https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/hydropower/administration-and-compliance/how-surrender-license-or-exemption.

The Commission needs certain information in a surrender proceeding to decide whether, and under what conditions, to surrender a license. The Commission collects information via a surrender application and via any additional information requests. Sometimes additional information is needed, so the Commission can respond to issues raised by resource agencies and the public after a surrender application has been filed and publicly noticed.

The reporting requirements of 18 CFR 6.1 (Application for surrender) state:

> "Every application for surrender of a license shall state the reason therefor; and, except in the case of an application for surrender of a license for a minor project, or for a transmission line only, shall be executed by the licensee and filed in the same form and manner as the application for license, and shall be accompanied by the license and all amendments thereof. Public notice of such application shall be given at least 30 days prior to action upon the application."

Not collecting information from the licensee via a surrender application and/or via additional information requests would adversely affect the Commission's ability to determine whether, and under what conditions, to grant a license surrender. Adequate information is needed to ensure that any project facilities remaining after surrender would be left in a safe condition both for dam safety and public safety purposes. Adequate information is also needed to determine whether the Commission should require the licensee to take appropriate environmental protection measures.

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

FERC continually considers the use of improved information technology to reduce burden in the filing requirements for submission of information concerning headwater benefits. FERC-510 may be eFiled through FERC's eFiling system.

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

In an effort to alleviate duplication, filing requirements are periodically reviewed as OMB review dates arise, or as the Commission may deem necessary in carrying

out its regulatory responsibilities. Commission staff has determined that there is no duplication of information in this collection. The information submitted with each filing is specific to each application for surrender. This is a specific use of information as required under Part 1 of the FPA and not a general collection of information.

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

The burden will vary between respondents, even though the reporting requirements are specific and uniform for all respondents. Any information collected is unique to the licensee and the hydropower project for which the filing is made. Therefore, there is no set format or form. The required data imposes the least possible burden on licensees while collecting information required for the Commission's analysis and decision making. Absent this data, the Commission cannot adequately assess environmental impacts and safety of the project.

For small entities, since there is no required format or form required in this information collection, small entities can submit their application to surrender in the least burdensome way possible, given it includes the minimum information required. The Commission believes that the flexibility provided here allows small entities to remain in compliance without spending as much time as a large entity may need to spend on its application.

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

If the information in FERC-510 were not collected, the Commission would be unable to establish the necessary facts and pertinent information needed to determine whether, and under what conditions, a license surrender should be granted. Without this information, there would be no basis for accepting a surrender of the license.

In the case of FERC-510, the reporting burden cannot be reduced because:

1) licensees must file a surrender application and/or provide information in a surrender proceeding pursuant to the Commission's regulations at 18 CFR 6.1 through 6.4,
2) adequate information is needed for the Commission to ensure that any remaining project facilities are left in a safe manner that all needed environmental protection measures are taken, and

3) adequate information is needed so the licensee can satisfy all needed local, state, and federal statutes, policies, and directives upon the surrender of a license.

Information is collected only when a licensee decides to surrender its license and/or a surrender proceeding is started by the Commission. Therefore, information for this purpose cannot be collected less frequently. The Commission cannot prevent a licensee from applying to surrender its license.

7. EXPLAIN ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE INFORMATION COLLECTION

There are no special circumstances related to this Collection.

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

In accordance with OMB requirements,[3] the Commission published a 60-day notice (91 FR 55847, August 31, 2026) and a 30-day notice (91 FR 74157, November 18, 2026) to the public regarding this information collection. Within the public notice, the Commission noted that it would be requesting a three-year extension of the public reporting burden with no change to the existing requirements concerning the collection of data.

The Commission received one comment from American Whitewater with suggestions for expanding the information required as part of the surrender application process.[4] The information requirements related to the FERC-510 are governed by the regulations at 18 CFR 6.1 which describe the content and scope of the collection. In this information collection renewal proceeding, the Commission is not currently proposing changes to these regulations. Because American Whitewater's comment proposes changes to the information collection requirements, its comments are outside of the scope of this information collection renewal process.

9. EXPLAIN ANY PAYMENT OR GIFTS TO RESPONDENTS

The Commission does not make payments or provide gifts for respondents related to FERC-510.

[3] 5 CFR 1320.8(d)

[4] This comment is available to the public through FERC's eLibrary system by searching for the docket ID IC26-42-000.

10. DESCRIBE ANY ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY PROVIDED TO RESPONDENTS

The information submitted to the Commission is public, therefore, the information is not considered confidential. Specific requests for material to be designated as privileged or Critical Energy Infrastructure Information will be considered pursuant to 18 CFR 388.112-113.

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.

This collection does not include any questions of a sensitive nature.

12. ESTIMATED BURDEN OF COLLECTIONS

There are no changes to the reporting requirements; we are adjusting the estimated number of respondents due to normal industry fluctuations. The estimated average annual burden and cost[5] follow.

Number of Respondents (1)	Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)	Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden Hrs. & Cost ($) Per Response (4)	Total Annual Burden Hrs. & Total Annual Cost ($) (3)*(4)=(5)	Cost per Respondent ($) (5)÷(1)
10	1	10	80 hrs.; $8,160	800 hrs.; $81,600	$8,160

13. ESTIMATE OF TOTAL ANNUAL COST BURDEN TO RESPONDENTS

The costs for this collection are entirely related to burden hours and are provided in Questions 12 and 15.

[5] 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).

14. ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Commission bases its estimate for "Analysis and Processing of filings" on FERC's salaries and benefits for professional and clerical support associated with receiving the submissions and preparing them for review.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Administrative Cost[6] is the average annual FERC cost associated with preparing, issuing, and submitting materials necessary to comply with the PRA for rulemakings, orders, or any other vehicle used to create, modify, extend, or discontinue an information collection. It also includes the cost of publishing the necessary notices in the Federal Register.

The estimated annualized cost to the Federal Government is as follows:

	Number of Employee hours	Estimated Annual Federal Cost
Analysis and Processing of Filings[7]	28	$2,856
PRA Administrative Cost		$8,404
FERC Total		$11,260

15. REASONS FOR CHANGES IN BURDEN INCLUDING ANY INCREASE

There are no changes to the information collection requirements and no program changes. However, the estimated number of applications is updated based on normal fluctuations in industry. [These revised estimates are also reflected in #12 above.]

The estimates, below, include the OMB-approved inventory (from ROCIS and reginfo.gov).

FERC-510	Total Request	Previously Approved	Change due to Adjustment in Estimate	Change Due to Agency Discretion

[6] This estimate was updated May 2026.

[7] The FERC 2026 average salary plus benefits for one FERC full-time equivalent (FTE) is $213,003 /year (or $102/hour).

Annual Number of Responses	10	7	+3	0
Annual Time Burden (Hr.)	800	560	+240	0
Annual Cost Burden ($)	0	0	0	0

16. TIME SCHEDULE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF DATA

There are no plans for publication of the information collection. The data are used for regulatory purposes.

17. DISPLAY OF EXPIRATION DATE

The expiration date is displayed in a table posted on ferc.gov at https://www.ferc.gov/information-collections.

18. EXCEPTIONS TO THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

There are no exceptions.