

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: December 18, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-27736 Filed 12-22-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC18-3-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-725F); Comment Request; Extension

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, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC 725F (Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due February 26, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC18-3-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's website:*
<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>.

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:*
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. For user assistance, contact FERC Online Support by email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

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/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Brown may be reached by email at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone

at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC 725F, Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0249.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-725F information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission requires the information collected by the FERC-725F to implement the statutory provisions of section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824o). On August 8, 2005, the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005, which is Title XII, Subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005), was enacted into law.¹ EPAct 2005 added a new section 215 to the FPA, which required a Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, which are subject to Commission review and approval. Once approved, the Reliability Standards may be enforced by the ERO subject to Commission oversight, or the Commission can independently enforce Reliability Standards.²

On February 3, 2006, the Commission issued Order No. 672, implementing section 215 of the FPA.³ Pursuant to Order No. 672, the Commission certified one organization, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), as the ERO. The Reliability Standards developed by the ERO and approved by the Commission apply to users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System as set forth in each Reliability Standard.

On November 19, 2007, NERC filed its petition for Commission approval of the Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination Reliability Standard, designated NUC-001-1. In Order No. 716, issued October 16, 2008, the Commission approved the standard while also directing certain revisions.⁴ Revised Reliability Standard, NUC-001-2, was filed with the Commission by NERC in August 2009 and subsequently approved by the Commission January 21, 2010.⁵ On

¹ Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58, Title XII, Subtitle A, 119 Stat. 594, 941 (2005), 16 U.S.C. 824o.

² 16 U.S.C. 824o(e)(3).

³ *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 672-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,212 (2006).

⁴ *Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination*, Order No. 716, 125 FERC ¶ 61,065, at P 189 & n.90 (2008), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 716-A, 126 FERC ¶ 61,122 (2009).

⁵ *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 130 FERC ¶ 61,051 (2010). When the revised

November 4, 2014, in Docket No. RD14-13, the Commission approved Revised Reliability Standard NUC-001-3.⁶

The purpose of Reliability Standard NUC-001-3 is to require "coordination between nuclear plant generator operators and transmission entities for the purpose of ensuring nuclear plant safe operation and shutdown."⁷ The Nuclear Reliability Standard applies to nuclear plant generator operators (generally nuclear power plant owners and operators, including licensees) and "transmission entities," defined in the Reliability Standard as including a nuclear plant's suppliers of off-site power and related transmission and distribution services. To account for the variations in nuclear plant design and grid interconnection characteristics, the Reliability Standard defines transmission entities as "all entities that are responsible for providing services related to Nuclear Plant Interface Requirements (NPIRs)," and lists eleven types of functional entities (heretofore described as "transmission entities") that could provide services related to NPIRs.⁸

FERC-725F information collection requirements include establishing and maintaining interface agreements, including record retention requirements. These agreements are not filed with FERC, but with the appropriate entities as established by the Reliability Standard.

Type of Respondent: Nuclear operators, nuclear plants, transmission entities.

Estimate of Annual Burden:⁹ The Commission estimates the average annual burden and cost¹⁰ for this information collection as follows.

Reliability Standard was approved, the Commission did not go to OMB for approval. It is assumed that the changes made did not substantively affect the information collection and therefore a formal submission to OMB was not needed. The most recent OMB approval for FERC-725F was issued on 6/15/2015.

⁶ The Letter Order is posted at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/OpenNat.asp?fileID=13675845>.

⁷ See Reliability Standard NUC-001-2 at <http://www.nerc.com/files/NUC-001-3.pdf>.

⁸ The list of functional entities consists of transmission operators, transmission owners, transmission planners, transmission service providers, balancing authorities, reliability coordinators, planning authorities, distribution providers, load-serving entities, generator owners and generator operators.

⁹ 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. Refer to 5 CFR 1320.3 for additional information.

¹⁰ The wage and benefit figures are based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data (at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm) for May 2016 for Sector 22, Utilities. (The benefits figure is based on BLS data as of September 8, 2017, which

FERC-725F	Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden hours & cost per response (\$) (rounded)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (\$) (rounded)	Cost per respondent (\$) (rounded)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	*(5) ÷ (1)
New or Modifications to Existing Agreements (Reporting).	60 nuclear plants + 120 transmission entities ¹¹ .	2	360	66.67 hrs.; \$5,616	24,001 hrs.; \$2,021,621.	\$11,231
New or Modifications to Existing Agreements (Record Keeping).	60 nuclear plants + 120 transmission entities.	2	360	6.67 hrs.; \$218	2,401 hrs.; \$78,615 ..	\$437
Total	¹² 360	26,402 hrs.; ¹³ \$2,100,236.

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: December 19, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-27732 Filed 12-22-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP18-13-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Line 8000 Replacement Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an

environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Line 8000 Replacement Project involving the abandonment, construction, and operation of facilities by Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia) in Mineral County, West Virginia and Allegany County, Maryland. The Commission will use this EA 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 on the project. You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. 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 EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before January 18, 2018.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on November 3, 2017, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP18-13-000 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 agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings where compensation would be determined in accordance with state law.

Columbia provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is also available for viewing on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov).

Public Participation

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff

indicates that wages are 69.6% and benefits are 30.4% of total salary (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>).

The estimated hourly cost (for wages plus benefits) for reporting requirements is \$84.23/hour, based on the average for an electrical engineer (occupation code 17-2071, \$68.12/hour), legal (occupation code 23-0000, \$143.68/hour), and office and administrative staff (occupation code 43-000, \$40.89/hour).

The estimated hourly cost (wages plus benefits) for record keeping is \$32.74/hour for a file clerk (occupation code 43-4071).

¹¹ This figure of 120 transmission entities is based on the assumption that each agreement will be between 1 nuclear plant and 2 transmission entities (60 × 2 = 120). However, there is some double counting in this figure because some transmission entities may be party to multiple agreements with multiple nuclear plants. The double counting does not affect the burden estimate, and the correct

number of unique respondents will be reported to OMB.

¹² The 180 respondents affected by the reporting requirements are also affected by the recordkeeping requirements.

¹³ The reporting requirements have not changed. The decrease in the number of respondents is due to: (a) Normal fluctuations in industry (e.g., companies merging and splitting, and coming into and going out of business), and (b) no new agreements being issued due to the lack of new nuclear plants being developed.