

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) published on its website an updated legal framework for its Patent Electronic System. The updated legal framework provides guidance on the background statutes, regulations and policies that support the USPTO's Patent Electronic System. The Patent Electronic System currently comprises EFS-Web, which is the USPTO's web-based patent application and document submission system; and the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, which is the USPTO's web-based means for electronically viewing the status of, and documents filed in or associated with, patent applications and proceedings. The updated legal framework also discusses the two-step authentication method now in place for accessing the Patent Electronic System. The updated legal framework serves as a reference for applicants, parties in reexamination proceedings, attorneys, and agents.

DATES: *Applicability Date:* October 23, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquiries regarding the Patent Electronic System and other USPTO information technology (IT) systems may be directed to the Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC), by telephone: (866) 217-9197 (toll-free) and (571) 272-4100, or by email: ebc@uspto.gov.

Inquiries regarding IT policy for U.S. national patent applications may be directed to Mark Polutta, Senior Legal Advisor (telephone (571) 272-7709; email at mark.polutta@uspto.gov), or Gena Jones, Senior Legal Advisor (telephone (571) 272-7727; email at eugenia.jones@uspto.gov), both with the Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy.

Inquiries regarding IT policy for international applications (PCT) may be directed to Tamara Graysay, Special Program Examiner (telephone (571) 272-6728; email at tamara.graysay@uspto.gov), and inquiries regarding IT policy for international design applications may be directed to Boris Milef, Senior Legal Examiner (telephone (571) 272-3288; email at boris.milef@uspto.gov), both with the Office of International Patent Legal Administration, Office of International Patent Cooperation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 23, 2019, the USPTO published on its website an updated legal framework for its Patent Electronic System. The updated legal framework is

available at <https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019LegalFrameworkPES.pdf>. The updated legal framework supersedes all prior versions of the legal framework and Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) section 502.05, Ninth Edition, Rev. 08.2017 (January 2018). The following is a brief summary of the major differences introduced by the updated legal framework:

1. Section B has been revised to further clarify that third-party papers are generally prohibited from being filed via EFS-Web unless specifically authorized.

2. Section D has been revised to clarify that providing an incorrect application number and confirmation number when filing a follow-on document will result in the follow-on document being entered in the wrong application. This may result in either the unintentional abandonment of the intended application for failure to reply to an Office action (or notice) or a reduction in patent term adjustment for failure to take reasonable steps to conclude processing or examination of an application. This may result in applicant having to file a petition to revive an unintentionally abandoned application.

3. Section E has been rewritten to discuss the two-step authentication method now being used to log into EFS-Web and Private PAIR.¹ The two-step authentication method replaced the prior use of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificates to access the Patent Electronic System. PKI certificates were discontinued on July 2, 2019.

Dated: October 18, 2019.

Andrei Iancu,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2019-23139 Filed 10-22-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

¹ PAIR includes both Public PAIR and Private PAIR. Public PAIR provides access to all issued patents and published patent applications. Private PAIR allows registered users to access pending application information in addition to what is also available in Public PAIR. Two-step authentication is required for Private PAIR but not for Public PAIR.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 15006-000]

Owyhee Energy Storage, LLC; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

October 17, 2019.

On September 4, 2019, Owyhee Energy Storage, LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Owyhee Pumped Storage Project (Owyhee Project or project) to be located on Lake Owyhee, near Adrian, Malheur County, Oregon. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would consist of the following: (1) A new 105-foot-high, 1,260-foot-long zoned earth and rockfill or concrete-face rockfill dam forming a lined upper reservoir with a surface area of 85 acres and a storage capacity of 3,410 acre-feet at a maximum surface elevation of 4,330 feet mean sea level (msl); (2) an existing 470-foot-high, 833-foot-long concrete arch dam forming the existing Lake Owyhee (lower reservoir) with a surface area of 13,900 acres and a storage capacity of 1,120,000 acre-feet at a maximum surface elevation of 2,650 feet msl; (3) a new 14,100-foot-long conduit connecting the upper and lower reservoirs consisting of a 2,200-foot-long, 17-foot-diameter concrete-lined low-pressure tunnel, a 7,100-foot-long, 17-foot-diameter concrete and steel lined pressure shaft, and a 4,800-foot-long, 20-foot-diameter concrete-lined tailrace; (4) a new 80-foot-long, 280-foot-wide, 120-foot-high underground powerhouse containing three reversible pump-turbine units rated at 200 megawatts (MW) each for a total capacity of 600 MW; (5) either 2.6 or 8 miles of double circuit 230-kilovolt transmission line interconnecting with either the Midpoint-Hemingway-Summer Line or the Boardman-Hemingway line, depending on the design of infrastructure; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Owyhee Project would be 946,080 megawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Luigi Resta, Owyhee Energy Storage, LLC, 201 S. Main St., Ste. 2000, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111; phone: (415) 602-2569.

FERC Contact: John Matkowski; phone: (202) 502-8576.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-15006-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-15006) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: October 17, 2019.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-23098 Filed 10-22-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC20-1-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (Ferc-549); 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 the currently approved information collection, FERC-549 (NGPA Title III Transaction and NGA Blanket Certificate Transactions).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due December 23, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC20-1-000) 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: NGPA Title III Transactions and NGA Blanket Certificate Transactions.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0086.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-549 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: FERC-549 is required to implement the statutory provisions governed by Sections 311 and 312 of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) (15 U.S.C. 3371-3372) and Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717f). The reporting requirements for implementing these provisions are contained in 18 CFR part 284.

Transportation for Intrastate Pipelines

In 18 CFR 284.102(e), the Commission requires interstate pipelines to obtain proper certification in order to ship natural gas on behalf of intrastate pipelines and local distribution companies (LDC). This certification consists of a letter from the intrastate pipeline or LDC authorizing the interstate pipeline to ship gas on its behalf. In addition, interstate pipelines

must obtain from its shippers certifications including sufficient information to verify that their services qualify under this section.

18 CFR 284.123(b) provides that intrastate gas pipeline companies file for Commission approval of rates for services performed in the interstate transportation of gas. An intrastate gas pipeline company may elect to use rates contained in one of its then effective transportation rate schedules on file with an appropriate state regulatory agency for intrastate service comparable to the interstate service or file proposed rates and supporting information showing the rates are cost based and are fair and equitable. It is the Commission policy that each pipeline must file at least every five years to ensure its rates are fair and equitable. Depending on the business process used, either 60 or 150 days after the application is filed, the rate is deemed to be fair and equitable unless the Commission either extends the time for action, institutes a proceeding or issues an order providing for rates it deems to be fair and equitable.

18 CFR 284.123(e) requires that within 30 days of commencement of new service any intrastate pipeline engaging in the transportation of gas in interstate commerce must file a statement that includes the interstate rates and a description of how the pipeline will engage in the transportation services, including operating conditions. If an intrastate gas pipeline company changes its operations or rates it must amend the statement on file with the Commission. Such amendment is to be filed not later than 30 days after commencement of the change in operations or change in rate election.

Market-Based Rates for Storage

In 2006, the Commission amended its regulations to establish criteria for obtaining market-based rates for storage services offered under 18 CFR 284.501-505. First, the Commission modified its market-power analysis to better reflect the competitive alternatives to storage. Second, pursuant to the EPAct 2005, the Commission promulgated rules to implement section 4(f) of the Natural Gas Act, to permit underground natural gas storage service providers that are unable to show that they lack market power to negotiate market-based rates in circumstances where market-based rates are in the public interest and necessary to encourage the construction of the storage capacity in the area needing storage services, and where customers are adequately protected. The revisions were intended to facilitate the