

○ *Hand (including courier) delivery:* Deliver to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

Instructions: OMB submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Using the search function under the “Currently Under Review” field, select Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; click “submit,” and select “comment” to the right of the subject collection.

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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 <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Brown may be reached by email

at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. FERC-732

Title: FERC-732, Electric Rate Schedule and Tariffs: Long-Term Firm Transmission Rights in Organized Electricity Markets

OMB Control No.: 1902-0245.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-732 information collection requirement with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: 18 CFR part 42 provides the reporting requirements of FERC-732 as they pertain to long-term transmission rights. To implement section 1233¹ of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005),² the Commission requires each transmission organization that is a public utility with one or more organized electricity markets to make available long-term firm transmission rights that satisfy each of the Commission’s guidelines.³

The FERC-732 regulations require that transmission organizations (that are public utilities with one or more

organized electricity markets) choose one of two ways to file:

- File tariff sheets making long-term firm transmission rights available that are consistent with each of the guidelines established by FERC.
- File an explanation describing how their existing tariffs already provide long-term firm transmission rights that are consistent with the guidelines.

Additionally, the Commission requires each transmission organization to make its transmission planning and expansion procedures and plans available to the public. FERC-732 enables the Commission to exercise its wholesale electric rate and electric power transmission oversight and enforcement responsibilities in accordance with the FPA, the Department of Energy Organization Act (DOE Act), and EPA 2005.

Type of Respondents: Public utility with one or more organized electricity markets

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*⁴ The Commission estimates the total burden and cost⁵ for this information collection as follows.

FERC-732—ELECTRIC RATE SCHEDULES AND TARIFFS: LONG-TERM FIRM TRANSMISSION RIGHTS IN ORGANIZED ELECTRICITY MARKETS

	Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Total annual burden hours and total annual cost (\$)	Cost per respondent (\$)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
Public utility with one or more organized electricity markets	1	1	⁶ 1	1,180 hrs.; \$102,660	\$102,660

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: January 20, 2022.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2022-01523 Filed 1-25-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC22-2-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (Ferc-549c) Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of information collection and request for comments.

¹ 16 U.S.C. 824.

² 16 U.S.C. 824q.

³ 18 CFR 42.1(d).

⁴ 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 CFR 1320.3.

⁵ FERC staff estimates that industry costs for salary plus benefits are similar to Commission costs. The FERC 2021 average salary plus benefits for one FERC full-time equivalent (FTE) is

\$180,703/year (or \$87.00/hour) posted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Utilities sector (available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics3_221000.htm).

⁶ The “1” Tariff filing is a placeholder for future fillers.

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-549C, (Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines), which will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due February 25, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on FERC-549C to OMB through www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. Please identify the OMB Control Number (1902-0174) in the subject line of your comments. Comments should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.

Please submit copies of your comments to the Commission. You may submit copies of your comments (identified by Docket No. IC22-2-000) by one of the following methods: Electronic filing through <http://www.ferc.gov>, is preferred.

- *Electronic Filing:* Documents must be filed in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format.

- For those unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery.

- *Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only:* Addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

- *Hand (including courier) Delivery:* Deliver to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Brown may be reached by email at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. FERC-549C

Title: FERC-549C, Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0174.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-549C information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements. No comments were received on the 60 day notice published on November 15, 2021 (86 FR 63010).

Abstract: The business practice standards under FERC-549C are required to carry out the Commission's policies in accordance with the general authority in sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, and 20 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA),¹ and sections 311, 501, and 504 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA).² The Commission adopted these business practice standards in order to update and standardize the natural gas industry's business practices and procedures in addition to improving the efficiency of the gas market and the means by which the gas industry conducts business across the interstate pipeline grid. In various orders since 1996, the Commission has adopted regulations to standardize the business practices and communication methodologies of interstate natural gas pipelines proposed by the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) in order to create a more integrated and efficient pipeline industry.³ Generally, when and if NAESB-proposed standards (e.g., consensus standards developed by the Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ)⁴) are approved by the Commission, the Commission incorporates them by reference into its approval. The process of standardizing business practices in the natural gas industry began with a Commission initiative to standardize electronic communication of capacity release transactions. The outgrowth of the initial Commission standardization efforts produced working groups

composed of all segments of the natural gas industry. The Gas Industry Standards Board (GISB) is a consensus organization open to all members of the gas industry was created. GISB was succeeded by NAESB.

NAESB is a voluntary non-profit organization comprised of members from the retail and wholesale natural gas and electric industries. NAESB's mission is to take the lead in developing standards across these industries to simplify and expand electronic communication and to streamline business practices. NAESB's core objective is to facilitate a seamless North American marketplace for natural gas, as recognized by its customers, the business community, industry participants, and regulatory bodies.

NAESB has divided its efforts among four quadrants including two retail quadrants, a wholesale electric quadrant, and the WGQ. The NAESB WGQ standards are a product of this effort. Industry participants seeking additional or amended standards (to include principles, definitions, standards, data elements, process descriptions, and technical implementation instructions) must submit a request to the NAESB office, detailing the change, so that the appropriate process may take place to amend the standards. Failure to collect the FERC-549C data would prevent the Commission from monitoring and properly evaluating pipeline transactions and/or meeting statutory obligations under both the NGA and NGPA.

On August 17, 2020, NAESB filed a report informing the Commission that it had adopted and ratified WGQ Version 3.2 of its business practice standards applicable to interstate natural gas pipelines. Version 3.2 of the WGQ includes business practice standards developed and modified in response to industry requests and directives from the NAESB Board of Directors. This version also includes the standards developed in response to the recommendations of Sandia National Laboratory (Sandia),⁵ which in 2019 issued a cybersecurity surety assessment of the NAESB standards sponsored by DOE (Sandia Surety Assessment),⁶ and

⁵ Sandia is a multidisciplinary national laboratory and federally funded research and development center for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration that supports numerous federal, state, and local government agencies, companies, and organizations.

⁶ In April 2017, NAESB announced that Sandia, through funding provided by DOE, would be performing a surety assessment of the NAESB standards. As determined by Sandia and DOE, the

¹ 15 U.S.C. 717c-717w.

² 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432.

³ This series of orders began with the Commission's issuance of *Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines*, Order No. 587, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,038 (1996).

⁴ An accredited standards organization under the auspices of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

the standards developed to enable the use of distributed ledger technologies when transacting the NAESB Base Contract for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas. The NAESB report identifies all the changes made to the WGQ Version 3.1 Standards and

summarizes the deliberations that led to the changes being made. It also identifies changes to the existing standards that were considered but not adopted due to a lack of consensus or other reasons.

Type of Respondents: Natural gas pipelines under the jurisdiction of NGA and NGPA.

*Estimate of Annual Burden.*⁷ The Commission estimates the total annual burden and cost for this information collection as follows:⁸

FERC-549C—STANDARDS FOR BUSINESS PRACTICES OF INTERSTATE NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

	Number of respondents (1)	Average number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1) * (2) = (3)	Average burden and cost per response ⁹ (4)	Total annual burden hours and total annual cost (5) ÷ (1)	Cost per respondent (\$)
Burden from Final Rule RM96-1-42 (NAESB Version 3.2)	59.33	1	59.33	100 hrs.; \$9,407	5,933.33 hrs.; \$558,148.35	\$9,407
Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines	165	2.96	490	96 hrs.; \$9,030.72	47,040 hrs.; \$4,425,052.80	\$26,818.50
Total for FERC-549C	549.33	52,973.33 hrs.; \$4,983,201.15

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: January 20, 2022.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2022-01519 Filed 1-25-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

purpose of the surety assessment was to analyze cybersecurity elements within the standards, focusing on four areas: (1) The NAESB Certification Program for Accredited Certification Authorities, including the Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ)-012 Public Key Infrastructure Business Practice Standards, the NAESB Accreditation Requirements for Authorized Certificate Authorities, and the Authorized Certification Authority Process; (2) the WEQ Open Access Same-Time Information Systems suite of standards; (3) the WGQ and Retail Markets Quadrant internet Electronic Transport (IET) and Quadrant Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) Related Standards Manual; and (4) a high-level dependency analysis between the gas and electric markets to evaluate the different security paradigms the markets employ.

⁷ “Burden” is the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate,

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP21-6-000]

Spire Storage West, LLC; Notice of Revised Schedule for Environmental Review of the Clear Creek Expansion Project

This notice identifies the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff’s revised schedule for the completion of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for Spire Storage West, LLC’s Clear Creek Expansion Project. The first notice of schedule, issued on August 26, 2021, identified January 21, 2022 as the final EIS issuance date. However, environmental staff is in the process of assessing various alternatives raised during the draft EIS comment period. As a result, staff has revised the schedule for issuance of the final EIS.

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 Title 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

⁸ Commission staff estimates that the industry’s skill set and cost (for wages and benefits) for FERC-549C are approximately the same as the Commission’s average cost. The FERC 2021 average salary plus benefits for one FERC full-time equivalent (FTE) is \$180,703/year (or \$87.00/hour) posted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Utilities sector (available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics3_221000.htm).

⁹ The estimated hourly cost (salary plus benefits) provided in this section is based on the salary figures for May 2021 posted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Utilities sector (available at http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm#13-0000)

Schedule for Environmental Review

Issuance of the Notice of Availability of the final EIS March 15, 2022

90-day Federal Authorization Decision Deadline June 13, 2022

If another schedule change becomes necessary, an additional notice will be provided so that the relevant agencies are kept informed of the project’s progress.

Additional Information

In order to receive notification of the issuance of the EIS and to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to <https://www.ferc.gov/>

www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm#13-0000 and scaled to reflect benefits using the relative importance of employer costs in employee compensation from June 2021 (available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm). The hourly estimates for salary plus benefits are:

Petroleum Engineer (Occupation Code: 17-2171), \$74.20

Computer Systems Analysts (Occupation Code: 15-1120), \$67.99

Legal (Occupation Code: 23-0000), \$142.25

Economist (Occupation Code: 19-3011), \$75.75

The average hourly cost (salary plus benefits) is calculated weighting each of the aforementioned wage categories as follows: \$74.20 (0.3) + \$142.25 (0.3) + \$67.99 (0.15) + \$75.75 (0.25) = \$94.07.