

burden hours to the depreciation studies line item now being added.

In another adjustment, the number of hours for Oil Rates and Tariff Filings will decrease from 7.8 hours to 7 hours per respondent due to the hour allocation going to the second line

(Depreciation Studies) in the table below. Additionally, since the previous renewal, the number of respondents to Oil Rates and Tariff filings also increased from 219 to 258 based on the number of filings received by the Commission. The overall revised burden

estimates result to an increase to 280 (+61) respondents, 796 (+86) responses, and 6,298 hours (+760).

The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden and cost<sup>3</sup> for the FERC-550 information collection as follows:

**FERC-550: OIL PIPELINE RATES—TARIFF FILINGS AND DEPRECIATION STUDIES**

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses <sup>4</sup> (1) * (2) = (3)	Average burden hrs. & cost (\$) per response (4)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (\$) (3) * (4) = (5)	Cost per respondent (\$) (5) ÷ (1)
Oil Rates and Tariff Filings.	258	3	774	7 hrs.; \$637 .....	5,418 hrs.; \$493,038 .....	\$1,911
Depreciation <sup>5</sup> Studies.	22	1	22	40 hrs.; \$3,640 .....	880 hrs.; \$80,080 .....	\$3,640
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>6,298 hrs.; \$573,118 .....</b>	<b>.....</b>

<sup>4</sup>This figure is rounded.

<sup>5</sup>Depreciation Studies previously was included under Oil Rates and Tariff Filings in the OMB inventory under OMB Control No. 1902-0089. However, for a more accurate estimate of burden a new row was added for Depreciation Studies (18 CFR 347.1). This new row will properly account for the differences in burden hours and type of filing with the Oil Rates and Tariff filings (18 CFR parts 341 through 348).

*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: August 31, 2022.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**Empire District Electric Company; Notice of Waiver Period for Water Quality Certification Application**

On August 26, 2022, Empire District Electric Company submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) a copy of its application for a Clean Water Act section 401(a)(1)

water quality certification filed with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Missouri DNR), in conjunction with the above captioned project. Pursuant to 40 CFR 121.6 and section [4.34(b)(5), 5.23(b), 153.4, or 157.22] of the Commission's regulations,<sup>1</sup> we hereby notify the Missouri DNR of the following:

*Date of Receipt of the Certification Request:* July 28, 2022

*Reasonable Period of Time to Act on the Certification Request:* One year (July 28, 2023).

If Missouri DNR fails or refuses to act on the water quality certification request on or before the above date, then the agency certifying authority is deemed waived pursuant to section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341(a)(1).

Dated: August 31, 2022.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RM98-1-000]

**Records Governing Off-the-Record Communications**

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(b), of the receipt of prohibited and exempt off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who make or receive a prohibited or exempt off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested proceeding, to deliver to the Secretary of the Commission, a copy of the communication, if written, or a summary of the substance of any oral communication.

Prohibited communications are included in a public, non-decisional file associated with, but not a part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become a part of the decisional record, the prohibited off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record

<sup>3</sup>The Commission staff thinks that the hourly cost (for wages and benefits) for industry staff completing the FERC-550 is similar to the cost of

FERC employees. FERC staff estimates that industry costs for salary plus benefits are similar to Commission costs. The cost figure is the FY2022

FERC average annual salary plus benefits (\$188,992/year or \$91/hour).

<sup>1</sup> 18 CFR [4.34(b)(5)/5.23(b)/153.4/157.22].