

information technology e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[FERC Form 556]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

September 9, 1997.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted within 60 days of the publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Information Services Division, ED-12.4, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at mmiller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form 556 "Cogeneration and Small Power Production" (OMB No. 1902-0075) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Section 3 of the Federal Act (EPA), 16 U.S.C. 792-828C, and Sections 201 and 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). The reporting requirements associated with FERC Form 556 require owners or operators of small power production or cogeneration facilities who seek qualifying status for these facilities to file an application to the Commission for certification as a qualifying facility (QF).

A primary objective of PURPA is the conservation of energy through efficient use of energy resources and facilities by energy facilities. One means of achieving this goal is to encourage production of production of electric power by cogeneration facilities which make use of reject heat associated with commercial or industrial processes, and by small power production facilities

which use other wastes and renewable resources. PURPA, through establishment of various regulatory benefits, encourages the development of small power production facilities and cogeneration facilities which meet certain technical and corporate criteria. Facilities that meet these criteria are called QFs.

The purposes of FERC Form 556 are to: specify the certification procedures which must be followed by owners or operator of small power production and cogeneration facilities; specify the criteria which must be met; specify the information which must be submitted to FERC in order to obtain qualifying status; specify the PURPA benefits which are available to QFs to encourage small power production and cogeneration; and specify the requirements pertaining to PURPA implementation plans regarding the transaction obligations that electric utilities have with respect to QFs. Respondents comply with these requirements in order to obtain or retain a benefit. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 292.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

Burden Statement: Public Reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
332	1	6	12,049

¹ approximate, includes application for Commission certification, PURPA implementation waiver filings, and notices for self-certification.

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 2,049 hours divided by 2087 hours per year times \$110,000 per year equals \$107,997. The cost per respondent is equal to \$325.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data resources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information;

and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

The estimate of cost for respondents is based upon salaries for professional and clerical support, as well as direct and indirect overhead costs. Direct costs include all costs directly attributable to providing this information, such as administrative costs and the cost for information technology. Indirect or overhead costs are costs incurred by an organization in support of its mission. These costs apply to activities which benefit the whole organization rather than any one particular function or activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed 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 Commission's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

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