

“Incongruent Development Times.” Please answer the following<sup>1</sup>:

a. Describe the challenges created both by the timeline for obtaining Regulatory Permits for transmission and by the Incongruent Development Times.

b. To what extent do the Incongruent Development Times hamper transmission and/or generation infrastructure development?

c. What are the primary risks associated with developing transmission vis-à-vis the timeline for obtaining Regulatory Permits as well as the Incongruent Development Times?

d. How is the financing for developing the attendant transmission influenced by its lengthy development time and by the Dissonant Development Times?

e. How if at all, do development timelines and the Incongruent Development Times affect the decisions made in utilities’ integrated resource planning, if applicable?

f. How do development timelines and the Incongruent Development Times affect the ability of parties to enter into open seasons or power-purchase agreements?

(2) Besides improving the efficiency of permitting and approving transmission, are there any other steps the federal government<sup>2</sup> could take to eliminate the barriers created by the Dissonant Development Times?

(3) What strategies can the Federal government take to decrease the time that Federal agencies require for evaluating Regulatory Permits for transmission? What other steps can the Federal government take to address the challenges created by Incongruent Development Times?

(4) One way to make the Regulatory Permit process and development times between remote generation and attendant transmission more commensurate, is to decrease the time for permitting transmission by some amount. In determining how much time can be saved, developing a benchmark may be helpful. What benchmark should be used?

a. Example—power purchase agreements as the benchmark: how far in the future do load serving entities (LSE’s) seek to purchase energy or capacity from remote resources? Do

<sup>1</sup> Since the Catch-22 is avoided when a load-serving entity is developing the generation and transmission for its own customers, for purposes of answering the questions, please assume that non-LSE’s are developing the generation and its attendant transmission.

<sup>2</sup> While Incongruent Development Times are caused by a number of forces including state, local and Tribal decisions, the parties to the MOU are only Federal agencies and, therefore, this RFI focuses on how the federal agencies can improve their own processes.

LSE’s seek PPAs that begin delivering energy/capacity 3 years from the signing of the PPA? 7 years? 10 years? Please explain why PPA’s are signed at this time.

b. Example—development times as the benchmark: How long does it take to design, permit and build different types of remote generation?

(5) In your experience, how long does it take to design, permit and build transmission?

(6) Assume that Federal, state, Tribal and local governments sought to set a goal for the length of time used for completing the Regulatory Permitting process for transmission projects so that the development times between generation and transmission were more commensurate, what goal should that be? As the length of the project and the number of governments with jurisdictions increase so will the time necessary for permitting and approvals; accordingly, consider providing a goal that could be scalable according to the length of the line.

Interested parties to this RFI might include, but are not limited to: federal and state agencies, Native American Tribes, transmission developers, renewable energy developers, investors, manufacturers, electric utilities, independent power producers, non-governmental organizations, academics, and other public, private, or non-profit entities.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 21, 2012.

**Brian Mills,**

*Director, Permitting and Siting, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.*

[FR Doc. 2012-4464 Filed 2-24-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Docket No. IC12-7-000]**

### Commission Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

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

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-587, Land Description

(Public Land States/Non-Public Land States [Rectangular or Non-Rectangular Survey System Lands in Public Land States]).

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due April 27, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC12-7-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission’s Web Site:* <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/e-filing.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/submit-guide.asp>. For user assistance contact FERC Online Support by email at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto: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](mailto>DataClearance@FERC.gov), telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** FERC-587, Land Description (Public Land States/Non-Public Land States [Rectangular or Non-Rectangular Survey System Lands in Public Land States]).

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-0145.

**Type of Request:** Three-year extension of the FERC-587 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

**Abstract:** The Commission requires the FERC-587 information collection to satisfy the requirements of section 24 of the Federal Power Act (FPA). The Federal Power Act grants the Commission authority to issue licenses for the development and improvement of navigation and for the development, transmission, and utilization of power across, along, from or in any of the streams or other bodies of water over which Congress has jurisdiction.<sup>1</sup> The Electric Consumers Protection Act (ECPA) amends the FPA to allow the Commission the responsibility of issuing licenses for nonfederal hydroelectric plants.<sup>2</sup>

Section 24 of the FPA requires that applicants proposing hydropower

<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. Section 797d (2010).

<sup>2</sup> Public Law 99-495, 100 Stat. 1243 (1996).

projects on (or changes to existing projects located within) lands owned by the United States to provide a description of the applicable U.S. land. Additionally, the FPA requires the notification of the Commission and Secretary of the Interior of the hydropower proposal. FERC-587 consolidates the information required and identifies hydropower project

boundary maps associated with the applicable U.S. land.

The information consolidated by the Form No. 587 verifies the accuracy of the information provided for the FERC-587 to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of the Interior (DOI). Moreover, this information ensures that U.S. lands can be reserved as hydropower sites and withdrawn from other uses.

**Type of Respondents:** Applicants proposing hydropower projects on (or changes to existing projects located within) lands owned by the United States.

**Estimate of Annual Burden:**<sup>3</sup> The Commission estimates the total Public Reporting Burden for this information collection as:

**FERC-587 (IC12-7-000): LAND DESCRIPTION (PUBLIC LAND STATES/NON-PUBLIC LAND STATES [RECTANGULAR OR NON-RECTANGULAR SURVEY SYSTEM LANDS IN PUBLIC LAND STATES])**

	Number of respondents (A)	Number of responses per respondent (B)	Total number of responses (A) × (B) = (C)	Average burden hours per response (D)	Estimated total annual burden (C) × (D)
Hydropower Project Applicants .....	250	1	250	1	250

The total estimated annual cost burden to respondents is \$17,252 [250 hours ÷ 2,080<sup>4</sup> hours/year = 0.12019 \* \$143,540/year<sup>5</sup> = \$17,252].

The estimated annual cost of filing the FERC-587 per response is \$69 [\$17,252 ÷ 250 responses = \$69/response].

**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: February 17, 2012.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-4418 Filed 2-24-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC12-6-000]

### Commission Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

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

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-585, Reporting of Electric Energy shortages and Contingency Plans under PURPA.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due April 27, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC12-6-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's Web Site:* <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/e-filing.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/submitting-information>

*guide.asp*. For user assistance contact FERC Online Support by email at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov), or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** FERC-585, Reporting of Electric Energy shortages and Contingency Plans under PURPA.

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-0138.

**Type of Request:** Three-year extension of the FERC-585 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

**Abstract:** The information collected under the requirements of FERC-585, "Reporting of Electric Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans under PURPA", is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of section 206 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) Public Law 95-617, 92 Stat. 3117. Section 206 of PURPA amended the Federal Power Act (FPA) by adding a new subsection (g) to section 202, under which the Commission by rule, was to require each public utility to (1) report to the Commission and appropriate state regulatory authorities

<sup>3</sup> 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, reference 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

<sup>4</sup> 2,080 hours = 40 hours/week \* 52 weeks (1 year).

<sup>5</sup> Average annual salary per employee in 2012.